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VOLUME LXIII, NUMBER 19185 SUNDAY, JANUARY 28, 1996 SHVAT 7, 5756 RAMADAN 8, 1416 NIS 4.20 (EILAT NIS 3.60)

Israel, Oman sign pact to exchange trade reps

Jerusalem Post Staff and news agencies

ISRAEL and Oman signed an agreement last night to establish commercial interest offices in Muscat and Tel Aviv, the Foreign Ministry said.

In a Muscat ceremony, the agreement was signed by Omani Foreign Minister Youssef Bin Alawi and Foreign Ministry deputy director-general for the peace process Yoav Biran. Oman is the first Gulf state to establish ties with Israel.

The two countries do not yet have diplomatic relations but have been exchanging visits in recent months. In November, Bin Alawi attended the funeral of prime minister Yitzhak Rabin.

He also attended the desert ceremony where the peace treaty between Israel and Jordan was signed.

The Foreign Ministry said the accord "comes as part of the peace process in the Middle East on the bilateral and multilateral level, and is aimed at achieving a comprehensive and lasting peace in the region."

Malaysia said it will consider establishing diplomatic relations with Israel only after the peace process between Israel and Syria is completed, the national Bernama news agency reported late on Friday.

"We're monitoring very closely the outcome of the Israeli-Syrian peace talks, as we must be certain first that the peace process is moving in the right direction," Foreign Ministry Secretary-General Ahmad Kamil Jaafar was quoted as saying.

He was commenting on a report from New Delhi quoting Finance Minister Avraham Shohat as saying he expected formal ties between Israel and Indonesia and Malaysia to be established soon.

Ahmad Kamil stressed that Malaysia would not hurry into establishing ties with Israel until the problems with the Palestinians and the Middle East were fully resolved.

Niger gov't toppled in coup

NIAMEY, Niger (AP) - Niger's first democratically elected president was ousted in a military coup yesterday and put under arrest in the presidential palace.

Col. Barre Maïnassara Ibrahim announced that President Mahamane Ousmane was under arrest, the constitution was suspended and a temporary national council was in control of the government.

Ibrahim, who referred to himself as the new head of state, said Prime Minister Hama Amadou had also been arrested and political parties were now banned.

A soldier and a presidential guard were killed when army soldiers surrounded the presidential palace and government headquarters, Ibrahim said.

Gunfire was heard around the government headquarters late yesterday evening. People in the capital of this West African nation fled to their homes and when they returned on the radio discovered normal programming had been replaced by military music.



First Lady Hillary Clinton leaves US District Court in Washington on Friday after testifying before a grand jury investigating Whitewater. Stories, Page 4. (AP)

Peace delegation heads to meet alone today

THE heads of the Israeli and Syrian delegations to the peace talks, Uri Savir and Walid Mualeem, will conduct "intensive contacts" today in advance of tomorrow's continuation of the negotiations in Maryland, Israel Radio reported yesterday.

Chief US mediator Dennis Ross met separately with the two sides over the weekend in Washington. The delegations are to continue the talks through Wednesday.

The aim is to narrow some differences before Secretary of State Warren Christopher goes to the Middle East next Monday for five days of shuttling between Damascus and Jerusalem.

Christopher joined the negotiations at the Wye Conference Center on Thursday and urged them to push forward with talks, said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

"The secretary's message to them... was to press very hard for movement and to look at all issues on the agenda and the secretary did offer some substantive ideas... as to how we, the United States, believe they should move forward together," Burns told reporters.

Burns said Christopher had telephoned Prime Minister Shimon Peres on Friday to report on the negotiations. "Peres told the secretary that he hoped there would be a redoubling of the efforts at Wye to make some movement," the spokesman said.

Christopher was quoted as telling Peres that he was encouraged the negotiators were working hard on all issues.

Mualeem said the ongoing negotiations in Maryland have highlighted the gaps on security arrangements that separate both countries.

The official Syrian news agency SANA quoted Mualeem on Friday night as saying the talks have dealt "deeply and seriously" with the security arrangements to be implemented after a proposed Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights. "Each side presented his position regarding security arrangements on the two sides of June 4, 1967, lines after the withdrawal of the Israeli occupation forces from the Golan," Mualeem said.

"The talks highlighted the existing difficulties and gaps between the points of view of the two sides regarding these arrangements," he added.

Mualeem said the talks provided the chance for both sides to "explain the positions and explore the points of view of each side regarding these arrangements with all their different sides."

Mualeem said Christopher "assured [that] the US was determined to continue efforts to secure a peace deal between Israel and Syria and Lebanon during this year, 1996."

Meanwhile, Minister Yossi Beilin accused Syria of foot-dragging and expressed doubt a peace agreement could be reached this year, as Christopher hopes. "I just can't understand what is motivating the Syrians. If they truly want peace, why are they so slow?" he told Israel Television.

Peres: 'Jerusalem not up for negotiations'

Jerusalem Post Staff

JERUSALEM will not be on the negotiating table with the Palestinians at any time in the future, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said last night.

Speaking to the convention of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, Peres said Jerusalem in the past was only the capital for the Jews, and it is first-class nonsense to create something like Berlin, Israel Radio reported.

On the negotiations with Syria, Peres said once an agreement is signed, 15 other Arab countries will join the peace process.

Germany observes 1st memorial day for Nazi victims

BONN (Reuter) - Germany observed its first remembrance day for the victims of Adolf Hitler's Nazi regime with low-key local ceremonies yesterday, drawing criticism from a leading Jew who called for the day to be given a higher profile.

Local politicians and former concentration camp prisoners laid wreaths at memorials across the country, including the sites of the Sachsenhausen and Ravensbrueck camps, where the Nazis killed tens of thousands of Jews.

Michel Friedmann, a board member of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, chided parliament for holding its own ceremony last week instead of joining the rest of the nation.

"I hope that beginning next year, the day will be respected as such. I can only express my amazement that the regional states who are observing the day are also treating it in such an arbitrary manner," he told German radio.

"These are not the signals we expect from this day." Earlier this month, President Roman Herzog declared January 27, the anniversary of the 1945 liberation of Auschwitz, as Germany's official day of remembrance for the victims of Hitler's regime.

But parliament held its ceremony with a speech by Herzog on Friday, January 19, as it had not planned to be in session on the official day and the president

would be out of the country on a visit to Africa. The chairman of the Central Council, Ignatz Bubis, has played down the absence of a national ceremony this year, saying the fact the day has finally been declared was more important.

The opposition Greens party echoed Friedmann's criticism, expressing the hope that parliament would hold a ceremony on the memorial day itself from now on.

"Remembrance must also have political consequences," the party's legal affairs spokesman Volker Beck said. He urged Chancellor Helmut Kohl's government to fully compensate Roma and Sinto gypsies who suffered at the hands

IDF kills 4 gunmen in security zone

Terrorists planned to carry out lethal operation against soldiers

FOUR Palestinian gunmen were killed in the security zone in clashes with the IDF that began late on Friday night and continued into yesterday morning.

Brig-Gen. Giora Inbar, commander of the IDF Lebanon liaison unit, said it was clear from the weapons found on the terrorists that they had intended to carry out a lethal operation in the heart of the security zone.

There were no IDF casualties in the incident, which occurred in the Kafir Huneh region in the northeastern sector of the zone.

The IDF Spokesman said soldiers on operational duties in the area spotted a gang of terrorists and fired at them. Three of the gunmen were killed in the heavy exchanges.

Another gunman who apparently managed to escape was discovered by soldiers from a paratroop unit during searches

of the area yesterday morning, and the soldiers shot him dead.

Reports from Lebanon said IAF helicopter gunships, as well as tanks and artillery, took part in the operation. The activities, according to the reports, continued until midday yesterday.

Lebanon preparing for talks with Israel, Page 2

The gunmen killed in the clash were members of Ahmed Jibril's Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command, headquartered in Damascus.

It appears they had made their way to the zone via Lebanon's Bekaa Valley, which is controlled by Syrian troops, and were probably aided by

Hizbullah guides when they got close to the zone.

The gunmen were equipped with a large quantity of small arms, including Kalashnikov rifles, hand grenades and a pistol with a silencer, as well as a map of the zone and enough food and water to last for several days.

The type of equipment indicated that they had intended to ambush IDF or South Lebanese Army troops from close range and possibly try to snatch one or more soldiers.

The incident over the weekend was the 25th in south Lebanon since the beginning of the year - 18 of them cases of long-range firing and six roadside bomb attacks.

Most of the attacks were carried out by Hizbullah against SLA targets inside the zone as part of the attempts by the Shi'ite organization to undermine the force. Hizbullah has also stepped up its psychological war against the SLA in recent weeks.

Osem to enter Indian market

HILLEL KUTTLER NEW DELHI

FIFTEEN kinds of Osem snacks will be produced in India by the country's largest food and pharmaceutical company, following an agreement signed here by Finance Minister Avraham Shohat, who is on a four-day visit. Some \$4 million will be invested in the joint venture.

Shohat is scheduled to sign three bilateral agreements tomorrow, including a double-taxation agreement, protection of investment and a customs agreement.

Indian Commerce Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram arrives in Israel today, leading India's first official trade delegation since diplomatic relations were instituted four years ago.

Chidambaram's delegation includes 20 business leaders in the textile, agriculture, construction and software industries, he told visiting American Jewish journalists yesterday.

While Chidambaram and Commerce and Industry Minister Micha Harish will sign a joint communique, the primary goal of the visit is to expand bilateral trade, Chidambaram said.

India exported \$120 million in goods to Israel in 1994-1995, while importing \$250 million worth, Chidambaram said, adding that the total represents a growth of 35 percent compared with 1992-1993, the first year of trade.

"Since we have not done business for many years with [Israel], we need to jump start that process... Our objectives remain the same: to promote imports and exports," Chidambaram said.

Supreme Court to rule on Klingberg today

Jerusalem Post Staff

THE Supreme Court will rule today on an appeal by convicted spy Marcus Klingberg to be released from prison on humanitarian grounds.

Klingberg appealed to the court in July after the Beersheba District Court rejected his request for an early release, in which he cited his deteriorating health. He suffers from a variety of illnesses, and has had several strokes.

Klingberg, 78, was sentenced to 20 years in prison in 1983 for giving the Soviet Union information relating to biological warfare while he was serving as deputy head of the Biological Institute in Ness Ziona.

Former General Security Service head Ya'acov Perry had recommended to prime minister Yitzhak Rabin that Klingberg be released, saying it was possible to prevent him from revealing secrets if he was released under certain conditions.

Perry gave the same opinion to the Supreme Court last month. However, the Mossad, the State Attorney's Office and various GSS department heads oppose his release.

Local doctors warn against use of melatonin pills

JUDY SIEGEL

ISRAELIS who bring melatonin pills - a synthetic hormone that some claim to be a "fountain of youth" - back from overseas visits, or if they rely on misinformed or misleading advice regarding the drug from their pharmacists or doctors, may be endangering their health.

The pills are freely available as a food supplement in health-food stores and pharmacies in the US, but even there a backlash among medical experts is leading to growing demands to restrict their sale.

A few months ago, the Health Ministry barred the unrestricted sale of melatonin in health-food stores, and only a handful of pharmacies are dispensing it to customers who come with a doctor's prescription. Britain took the same step recently. Even those researchers who

have found the hormone relieves jet lag and insomnia and can act as a contraceptive when combined with another drug warn that melatonin can harm pregnant women, children and people with autoimmune diseases. But The Jerusalem Post has found that pharmacists who sell the hormone claim anyone can take the pills without harm.

Melatonin is produced by the pineal gland in the brain during darkness.

Prof. Yitzhak Nir, a senior researcher in clinical pharmacology at the Hebrew University School of Pharmacy who has studied melatonin for 20 years, warns that almost all of the melatonin studies so far have been carried out on rodents, and that no one has proven the safety of melatonin over the long term in humans.

Full report, Page 5.

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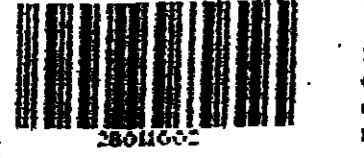
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IMPORTANT NOTICE The special concert with conductor Yitzhak Sagie and pianist Oshad Ben Ari, planned for Friday, Feb 16th, has been cancelled.

Ticket holders are kindly requested to refer to the IPO box office for reimbursement.

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Congress passes full aid package to Israel

ISRAELI officials and pro-Israel lobbyists in Washington breathed a sigh of relief after Congress passed a foreign aid bill on Friday night that will allow the full payment of the \$3 billion in civilian and military aid to Israel within two weeks.

The bill, passed in the framework of interim legislation that will prevent the US government from shutting down again until March 15 at the earliest, also provides for the release of funding for the Palestinians.

Since the beginning of the US fiscal year in October, passage of the foreign aid bill was delayed

Jerusalem Post Staff

repeatedly by the budget dispute between the Clinton administration and the Republican-controlled Congress, which shut down many US government operations for several weeks.

As a result, only a third of the \$1.2b. in civilian aid and the \$1.5b. to fund military purchases in the US had been transferred. In previous years, the full sum was paid at the beginning of the year.

The US government will now also pay out the remainder of the \$100 million it had promised

the Palestinian Authority this year.

The aid to the Palestinians is now anchored in the Middle East Peace Facilitation Act, which is in place for 18 months, and not simply an exemption to the law that needs to be renewed every six months.

However, to continue receiving the aid, the PA must eliminate the clauses in the Palestinian Covenant that call for the destruction of Israel, as dictated by the Oslo 2 accord, and establish strict reporting procedures so the use of the money can be monitored.

'Israel-Lebanon peace talk preparations under way'

PREPARATIONS are being made for peace talks between Israel and Lebanon, according to reports from Beirut.

The Lebanese daily newspaper *An-Nahar* quoted US Assistant Secretary of State for Near East Affairs Robert Pelletreau as saying that the US was helping in the preparations.

Lebanese President Elias Hrawi also indicated that Lebanon was preparing for the possibility of talks. He made it clear, however, that this would depend on significant progress being

DAVID RUDGE

made in the talks between Israel and Syria.

Hrawi reiterated that the Lebanese army was ready to extend its control over south Lebanon, up to the international border with Israel.

Meanwhile, other reports from Lebanon said Hizbullah was asking for Iranian help to construct an airstrip near Beirut to enable it to receive supplies of arms directly from Iran.

This follows other reports that

the Turkish authorities recently intercepted, in Turkish territory, six trucks loaded with weapons and ammunition which were allegedly bound for Hizbullah in Lebanon.

The Turkish Foreign Ministry was said to have asked Iran and Syria's ambassadors in Turkey to explain the matter.

The reports led to speculation that, as a result of American pressure, Syria might be cracking down on the supply of arms from Iran to Hizbullah via Damascus.



Two teenagers along with hundreds of other demonstrators protest yesterday in an area slated to become part of the Trans-Israel Highway. The protest was organized by the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel. (Ailon Ron/Israel Sun)

Thousands protest Trans-Israel Highway

SOME 10,000 people took part in protest tours of the area around part of the planned Trans-Israel Highway yesterday, according to the Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel which organized the event.

Many of the day-trippers signed a petition calling on the government to reconsider the highway, and sent postcards to Prime Minister Shimon Peres asking him to halt the work on the road.

Encouraged by the pleasant weather, the excursionists toured the area around Tel Hadid, near the Ben-Shemen Forest, where work

LIAT COLLINS

has just begun on the first stage of the road.

The SPNI established information stands along the way. At one of the sites, artists displayed works inspired by the local landscape that is threatened by the road development.

While the adults signed the petition, children signed a special scroll in the form of a road. The 40-meter scroll, covered with pictures from children protesting the highway, will also be presented to the government.

"The support by the public is incredible.

The public is voting with its feet in favor of finding better solutions to the country's transport problems," said Amit Shapira, head of the SPNI's environmental protection branch.

"This is one of the most significant protest events to have taken place in Israel in recent years and I hope the government won't ignore the clear message."

Ironically, the numbers of protesters arriving to demonstrate against the planned road caused serious traffic jams in the area, causing the SPNI at one point to send out a public request to refrain from coming to the site.

Hawatmeh: I have a right to live in Palestine

NAYEF Hawatmeh, the leader of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, said Friday that although he was born east of the Jordan River he has the same right to live in Palestine as Israelis who also came from many different countries.

Hawatmeh, a Christian, who has let it be known that he wishes to "return to Palestine" without preconditions, was born in Jordan in 1931 to Jordanian parents, though he has some cousins living west of the Jordan River.

In a telephone interview with

The Jerusalem Post Friday from Damascus, Hawatmeh said that "the sense of belonging to the Palestinian land is something democratically legitimate. Israelis come from different societies like Ukraine, Russia, Britain, France, the United States, Ethiopia - so it is dangerous to raise these issues."

This may be the first time a Palestinian leader has compared the right for an Arab to live in Palestine to a Jew's right to live in Israel. Palestinians normally base their claim on the argument that

JON IMMANUEL

they are natives and the Jews are immigrants.

Hawatmeh's DFLP, the most Marxist and internationally oriented of all the radical PLO groups, was the first to cultivate contact with Marxist-oriented Israelis in the early Seventies and to talk about "a democratic, secular state of Jews and Palestinians" which Israeli governments considered a code word for the destruction of the Jewish state.

His Red Star, the symbol of the DFLP, plummeted with the demise of the USSR. The faction, already down to a thousand members, split in 1991, when his deputy Yasser Abed-Rabbo, now the culture minister in the Palestinian Authority, formed FIDA and decided to support Fatah and the Madrid Conference.

He said he no longer calls for one secular democratic state in all of Palestine and said he is against changing the Palestinian National Charter which calls for the de-

struction of Israel "because Palestinians inside and outside oppose such a step."

Hawatmeh is not a member of the Palestinian National Council himself, but 30 DFLP members are.

Meanwhile, Abdel-Hamid Sayeh, the 93-year-old chairman of the PNC "will come back within seven days," his son Bassam said Friday.

The PNC must convene within two months of the inauguration of the newly elected 88-member Palestinian Council.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Or Yehuda man stabbed to death in TA

A man with a history of violent and property crime convictions was stabbed to death early yesterday morning in Tel Aviv.

Shlomo Sasson, 33, of Or Yehuda, was found still alive in a pool of blood on Rehov Yehuda Hachama in the Shapira neighborhood and taken to Ichilov Hospital, where he died of his wounds. As of last night there were no arrests. Police were following up on the case but had a serious argument with others in a disquieting trial Friday night.

Young sailors rescued by Coast Guard

Eleven youths and their group leader were fished out of Haifa Bay by the Coast Guard yesterday, after their sailboat overturned because of high winds. No one was hurt.

The group was participating in a sailing event sponsored by Hapoel.

Palestinian sues settlers who shot him

A Beit Salmu man has filed a civil suit against two settlers who shot him in the feet, in an attempt to circumvent the government's insistence that Palestinians should not be compensated for intifada-related injuries. In March 1992, Wael Badra was shot in the foot by two settlers who said they were looking for the person who threw stones at their car earlier in the day. In an earlier criminal proceeding, the Jerusalem District Court ruled that the settler had acted in self-defense.

Ramadan prayers pass quietly

Some 165,000 Muslims took part in the first Friday prayers of Ramadan on the Temple Mount, and police said the prayers passed without incident.

Hundreds of police and border policemen were on duty in the Old City and in eastern Jerusalem during the prayers. Residents of the territories were allowed into the city to take part.

Guard shot at brothel

A guard at a Tel Aviv brothel was shot in the stomach and moderately wounded early yesterday when three men tried to rob him.

The three men came into the Kobav Hazavah "health club" on Schocken Street and one of them hired a prostitute and went into a room. He then came out and the three told the guard to give them his money. The guard, 24, told the three that he wouldn't give them anything and one of the robbers shot him. The three then fled from the club.

Jewish media conference opens

The assassination of Yitzhak Rabin was the central theme at the opening last night in Jerusalem of the Sixth International Jewish Media Conference, attended by journalists from some 30 countries. Eitan Haber, who had been Rabin's bureau chief, said the most noteworthy thing about Rabin was his ability to change from a man of war to a peacemaker. In his address, Jewish Agency chairman Avraham Burg welcomed the Jewish media's critical voice. "The time of 'what will the goyim say' is over. The time that we should not say things that people could use against us is over," he said.

Palestinian dies in explosion

A Palestinian was killed when a bomb exploded yesterday in the West Bank village of Samna near Hebron. Palestinian sources said. Israeli and Palestinian sappers were combing the area for any other explosives. IDF sources said a body was discovered and an investigation was under way.

Couple detained by PA Police

HERB KEINON

A KARNEI Shomron couple on their way to visit their son at an army base in the Hebron Hills on Thursday made a wrong turn into the Palestinian village of Dura and were detained for over three hours by the Palestinian Police.

Shelly Greenfield said that she and her husband mistakenly entered the village, spotted a Palestinian policeman and asked him for directions. She said that her husband, who was sitting in the back seat, had his IDF-issue M-16 rifle on his lap.

The car, she said, was quickly surrounded by "hundreds" of Palestinians, and policemen asked for the rifle.

"My husband put it on the seat next to him and did not touch it, and then they forcibly took it," she said.

She added that at one point the gun was directed at them, and at another point someone fired shots from it into the air. The couple was taken from the car and brought to a police station.

They were treated well at the station, but were unable to contact anyone because there were no phones there, except for cellular phones that did not work. The couple was brought to another police station, and eventually taken to the District Coordinating Office and turned over, with the M-16, to the IDF.

Ashrawi: Education and anti-abuse legislation priorities for women on Palestinian council

JON IMMANUEL

ASSURING education for women until age 18 and punishing perpetrators of domestic violence are among the legislative tasks the women members of the new Palestinian Council see as most important, Hanan Ashrawi told a Jerusalem press conference Friday.

Passing a law to prevent teenage marriages is also a priority, she said.

"We live in a male-dominated society. The important thing is to get the law going, and to have a clear strategy that can get through," said Ashrawi, one of five women elected to the council in the January 20 elections.

Several women activists also participated in

the press conference. Other women council members were to have appeared, but two from Gaza were not permitted through roadblocks and another, from Nabulus, was sick, one of the participants said.

"The struggle for human rights and democracy will be the main thing," in the council, said Zahira Kamal, who lost her own bid for election in Jerusalem by 104 votes.

Ghada Zughayer, director of the Jerusalem Center for Women, said she did not think PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat has been sym-

pathetic to women's issues and they might face opposition in the 88-member council.

"The responses of Mr. Arafat have not been positive at all. He said he had enough attacks from the Islamic fundamentalists," Zughayer said.

However, the influence of Islamic fundamentalists in the council will be limited, as only a handful of candidates sympathetic to Hamas won seats. Women's issues may therefore become a litmus test for the council's ability to act independently of the executive headed by Arafat and Islamic opposition groups.

Arafat, Mubarak discuss final status talks

CAIRO (Reuters) - Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak met yesterday in Cairo to discuss the last and most crucial phase of negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian Authority, due to start in May.

"Both leaders assessed the next important station on the road to [Palestinian] self-determination, which is the final status talks scheduled to start on May 4," Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa told reporters after the two leaders met.

Moussa said that "a solution to the Palestinian problem and comprehensive peace can only be

achieved through the establishment of a Palestinian state."

He said Arafat and Mubarak also reviewed last week's Palestinian elections, which gave Arafat a landslide victory.

Arafat then went to Amman yesterday seeking Jordan's support for Palestinian statehood and its help in facilitating negotiations with Israel on a final settlement of the Palestinian issue.

In a rare gesture, King Hussein greeted him at the airport. Under state protocol, the prime minister receives Arafat, who is also the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization.

Settlement reached with Lillehammer family

OSLO (Reuters) - Israel on Friday reached a compensation agreement with the Norwegian family of a man killed by mistake 23 years ago by Israeli agents, the NTB news agency reported.

Torill Larsen Bouchiki and her daughter Malika reached a satisfactory financial settlement with lawyer Amnon Goldenberg, representing Israel, a handwritten statement from the two parties said.

But it gave no indication of the size of the settlement, NTB said.

In separate negotiations, an undisclosed settlement was also

reached with the dead man's son, Jamal Terje Ruggersen.

Ahmed Bouchiki, a Moroccan waiter, was shot dead in the sleepy Norwegian town of Lillehammer in 1973. The hit squad had been sent to kill a Palestinian involved in the seizure of Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in September 1972.

"Representatives from State of Israel, without taking responsibility, express their sorrow for the death of Ahmed Bouchiki," said a statement, signed by Goldenberg and the lawyer representing Bouchiki's widow, Thor-Erik Johansen.

'Water constantly in jeopardy without Golan'

DAVID RUDGE

THE government is trying to delude the public by demanding that Israel retain control of fresh water sources in the event of any peace accord with Syria and Lebanon, the Golan Residents Committee says.

"There is only one real way to ensure Israel maintains control over all water flowing into Lake Kinneret and that is by keeping the Golan under Israeli rule," declared committee spokesman Uri Heimer.

"Any withdrawal from the Golan would be an adventurous gamble which could lead to the abandonment of [almost] a third of Israel's fresh water sources, thereby sowing the seeds for potential war," said Heimer.

Committee leaders met on Thursday with heads of the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza to discuss continuing cooperation

in the campaign against any withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Heimer said there was a consensus over the question of the Golan, and his group welcomed the support it was receiving from the council.

The committee is to hold a press conference in Katzrin today to announce details of its forthcoming campaign to bring thousands of people to the Golan over Tu B'Shvat.

With broken hearts we mourn the loss of our Husband, Father, Zaidie and Brother.

HARAV SHYA LEBOR 7737

Rabbi Emeritus of the Young Israel of Woodmere Who spread Torah in America and Israel for over 50 years.

The funeral will leave from the Mirer Yeshiva Be'Har Bet Yisrael, Jerusalem for Eretz Hachayim Cemetery, Shimon Junction Bet Shemesh at 5:00 p.m. today January 28, 7 Shevat. Shiva at the Lebor Residence, 22/4 Rehov Mechal, Meilot Dafna, Jerusalem.

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Children: Rieck and Howard Katz
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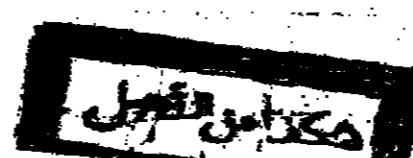
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Du Pont heir in murder siege

NEWTOWN SQUARE, Pennsylvania (AP) — Police sharpshooters yesterday kept a wary distance from a gun-loving heir to the Du Pont fortune, believing he is heavily armed in his mansion after the fatal shooting of an Olympic wrestling champion.

John E. du Pont barricaded himself in his second-floor bedroom and broke off negotiations with police soon after Friday's shooting. Police spoke to him by telephone and later took an unidentified man, possibly a wrestling coach, to the house in hopes of coaxing du Pont to surrender.

"We do not know what motivated Mr. du Pont to do what he did," said Newtown Township Police Chief Michael Mallon. "We intend to take as long as it takes to resolve this problem without any other people being injured."

"John du Pont is a marksman and he has an arsenal," added police Sgt. Brian McNeill. "We don't know how many guns or how much ammunition he has."

David Schultz, 36, a wrestler who won an Olympic gold medal in 1984 and was training on du Pont's property for the Atlanta Games, died at a hospital after being shot in the chest and arm with a .38-caliber revolver.

Mallon said the shooting took place in the driveway of the home on the estate where Schultz lived with his wife, Nancy, and two children. Du Pont then drove back to his mansion, about a 1.6 km away, and barricaded himself inside.

One of three du Pont employees in the mansion acted as an intermediary at first, talking with police by cellular phone, but they left a few hours later and du Pont refused to take any further calls.

Communications were further stymied by the fact that du Pont

did not have phone lines on his property repaired after they were destroyed by two separate fires on his estate one day in October.

Phone company workers had wired makeshift phone lines to the mansion by midnight, and McNeill said police established phone contact with du Pont yesterday.

About 40 police marksmen had the mansion surrounded and a command center was set up 1.5 km away. It was familiar territory for some; officers had once used a shooting range at the estate for target practice, and du Pont had been an honorary police force member in the 1970s.

Du Pont, 57, is a great-great grandson of E.I. du Pont, the French-born industrialist who founded the chemical company. He is one of hundreds of heirs to the family fortune.

Neighbors around his 320-hectare estate in this Philadelphia suburb said he had a history of erratic behavior, once driving two new Lincoln Continentals into a pond one after the other.

"He has a bad reputation for being off the wall," said Carla White, 36, who lives nearby.

His former business manager, Victor Krievins, confirmed du Pont has a large cache of weapons and even a military armored personnel carrier on his property.

A former wrestler who also trained on the estate, Dan Chaid, told *The Philadelphia Daily News* he saw evidence of du Pont's erratic behavior in October. Chaid said du Pont was often addicted to alcohol and cocaine and had taken to walking around his estate armed with a machine gun.

"He started getting extremely violent," Chaid said. He said he told his story to police when he moved out in October.



Family members mourn yesterday at the side of their loved ones killed in the rocket attack on the mosque in Kahutta, 300 km northeast of Islamabad. Nineteen people died in the attack in the Pakistani town near the Indian border. (AP)

UN investigating rocket attack that killed 19 in Pakistani mosque

UNITED Nations military observers in Kashmir launched an investigation yesterday into a rocket attack on a Pakistani mosque that left 19 people dead.

Pakistan has accused Indian troops along the contested Kashmir border of firing two Russian-made rockets into the remote Pakistani town of Forward Kahuta, about 300 km northeast of Pakistan's capital Islamabad.

UN military observers were escorted by a Pakistani army helicopter to the scene of the rocket attack, the spokesman said.

Indian army officials called the charge groundless.

"We deny that there has been any rocket attack from our side," Indian army Brig. Parinder Paul Singh Bindra said. "This is absurd."

Pakistan and India traded gunfire yesterday as thousands mourned the deaths from the rocket attacks.

"There was an exchange of fire in (the region's) Jammu area today in which two Pakistani civilians have been injured," a Pakistani army spokesman said.

The spokesman said Indian forces were violating the status of "working boundaries" in the Jammu area.

Meanwhile India successfully yesterday tested a longer-range version of its medium-range Prithvi missile, capable of carrying nuclear warheads.

News agencies ISLAMABAD, Pakistan

"It was an excellent flight following a predicted trajectory in a textbook manner and the Prithvi impacted at the exact point (target)," a Defense Ministry spokesman in Delhi quoted A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the top Indian missile scientist, as saying.

"All the mission objectives were fully met," the spokesman said, adding the test flight of the missile, Prithvi-2, had touched the targeted spot 250 km away in the medium range. India had earlier tested a range of 150 km.

Pakistan immediately denounced the Prithvi test as "very dangerous" and said Islamabad would have to take counter-measures.

Foreign secretary Najmuddin Sheikh said in an interview broadcast by the state television that Prithvi was "a Pakistan-specific" missile that could target every major Pakistani city and was not against any other country.

"This represents a very dangerous development," he said, adding: "It introduces qualitatively a new situation security-wise in South Asia."

Sheikh said Pakistan would be constrained to take "necessary measures to counter this threat." He did not specify the counter-measures.

In Forward Kahuta, mourners gathered around the bodies of the rocket attack victims, the youngest just five years old.

The bodies, covered in white sheets, were lined up near the scene of the fatal attack on the mosque. Grieving relatives wept as they filed past the dead.

The town's main mosque complex was heavily damaged where one of the two rockets landed.

The side wall of an adjacent building on the mosque grounds was destroyed by the attack, said army spokesman Col. Yahya Jamil.

"The attack was totally unexpected," Jamil said. "First there was a whistling noise when the rocket came in and then a loud explosion."

At least 18 worshippers were killed immediately in the attack which hit shortly after Friday prayers concluded at the mosque, Jamil said. Another victim died yesterday of his injuries.

Both Pakistan and India already have thousands of troops deployed along the contested Kashmir border, which was divided between the two countries at the end of British rule.

Border clashes have become a regular occurrence and Pakistan's troops are often on high alert, a government spokesman said.

According to UN figures, Pakistan has filed more than 6,000 complaints of cease-fire violations over the past five years against Indian troops stationed on their side of the border.

Bosnia prisoner release resumes, 242 Serbs freed

SARAJEVO (Reuters) — The release of prisoners from Bosnia's 3½-year war resumed yesterday after a week-long pause when the mainly-Muslim government and Bosnian Croats freed 242 Serbs, a Red Cross spokesman said.

The Bosnian Serbs said their 180 prisoners would be released today. "They will be released tomorrow," said Dragan Buljic, head of the Serb Prisoner Exchange Commission.

Most of the freed Serbs were brought to Sarajevo's rain-swept airport, considered neutral territory during the year war and now held by Implementation Force (IFOR) peacekeeping troops.

The Croats sent 127 from Mostar in southwest Bosnia and the government 77 from Sarajevo. They sat around in buses for several hours but by nightfall

there was no sign of any prisoners being released from the Serb side of the tarmac.

International Committee for the Red Cross (ICRC) spokesman Pierre Gauthier said the government freed another 38 Serbs near Zenica in central Bosnia but there were no details.

Other prisoner releases were due to take place in central and northwestern Bosnia yesterday but there was no word on whether they had taken place or not.

The Bosnian factions met on Friday and agreed to free all their prisoners, belatedly meeting their commitments under the peace agreement signed last month in Paris.

The head of the Croats' Exchange Commission, Berislav Pusic, told the Bosnian Croat news agency HABENA that some Serbs accused of war crimes were not being released.

Australia declares election on March 2

CANBERRA (Reuters) — Prime Minister Paul Keating yesterday called an election for March 2, asking Australians to give him time to finish economic reform, integrating Australia with Asia, and his push for a republic.

"This election, more than anything else, will be about leadership, about a further mandate for the government that has given Australia a place in the world, that's remade Australia into an open, competitive country," Keating told reporters.

"At stake is our continuing emergence as a successful partner in Asia and the Pacific."

But the Labor party, which Keating has led since late 1991, trails heavily in opinion polls, largely because it has held power for 13 years, and Liberal-National opposition leader John Howard seized on perceptions that Labor's time is up.

"All of the signs of atrophy and decay are apparent in that government — the arrogance, the lack of contact with reality, the failure to appreciate the fundamental problems of Australia's society and economy," Howard said.

Keating, from a working class background but with sharp tastes in clothing, design and architecture, is famously arrogant. One cartoonist portrays him as Louis XIV of France.

Ten years later, Challenger families carry on

CAPE CANAVERAL (Reuters) — June Scobee had been through many harrowing experiences as a military wife, so she was not frightened when shuttle Challenger's engines began to thunder 10 years ago with her husband on board.

"We were so excited," she recalls of that Jan. 28, 1986 morning when Dick Scobee, a crack aviator, was set to pilot the shuttle. "We were all cheering and shouting."

But then, she said, "As my son reached to put his arm around me and his sister, the unspeakable happened."

The Challenger, whose crew also included Christa McAuliffe, chosen to be the first teacher in space, exploded just 73 seconds after it rose from the launch pad, killing all seven people on board.

"I had every feeling of grief, anger, loss and sorrow that you can imagine," said Scobee, now June Scobee Rodgers. "I was angry at God for letting this happen."

She could not speak of her husband's death for nine years. She struggled even to discuss their fa-

ther with her grown children, Kathie and Rich. And although she fell in love again — and was remarried six years ago to retired Army Lt. Gen. Don Rodgers — her anguish remained.

The Challenger crew included two women — McAuliffe and Judith Resnik, the second woman astronaut to fly — as well as Ellison Sizuka, an engineer and the first Japanese-American astronaut, and Ronald McNair, a physicist and the second black astronaut.

In addition to Scobee, 47, the crew also included Michael Smith, 40, a jet fighter pilot and astronaut, and Gregory Jarvis, 41, a civilian aerospace engineer.

McAuliffe, 37, of Concord, New Hampshire, was the most heralded crew member, hand-picked to fly as part of NASA's Teacher in Space Project.

She would have been the first ordinary citizen to orbit Earth. School children around the world saw the explosion live on television because of NASA's promotion in classrooms of McAuliffe's voyage.

The crew members' survivors chose the promotion of education to help them through their grief. Two months after Challenger exploded, the families met to plan a memorial, electing Scobee's widow founding chairman of the Challenger Centre for Space Science Education in Alexandria, Virginia.

"The families wanted a living memorial, not a block of granite," said Ed Klecka, a spokesman for the centre.

In the 10 years since, the surviving relatives — parents, siblings, spouses and the 11 children of the Challenger seven — all have found ways to cope with the loss.

Greg Jarvis' parents, Alex Bruce Jarvis and Ellen Jarvis, live in Orlando, Florida, and have found comfort in Challenger memorials. But, said Alex Jarvis, "The pain is always there."

The Jarvis' became familiar figures in central Florida as they thanked motorists who bought a Florida license plate honoring the Challenger crew. "I would hit the big parking lots, looking for people with the tags," Alex Jarvis

said. "It was such a pleasant thing to see people with them that I would try to thank those who bought one."

At times he would follow drivers with Challenger plates for miles. "When they'd stop, I'd stop, too, to say thank you," he said.

The survivors have raised money to build 25 space education centres in the United States and Canada. There will be 30 of the centres by year's end.

Even as the families face the inevitable television replays of Challenger exploding on the 10th anniversary of the disaster, Ellen Jarvis said some will find comfort.

"I hope that bringing it all to the forefront again will honor their memories and help young people look to the crew members as role models," she said. "That is the best memorial of all."

June Scobee Rodgers said she often sees other Challenger family members. "We have discovered that hidden away are not only sorrowful but beautiful memories," she said.

S. Africans question Farrakhan visit

News agencies JOHANNESBURG

SOUTH African newspapers, recalling racial sensitivities in the new democracy, yesterday questioned the imminent visit of US black Moslem leader Louis Farrakhan which has already angered the white right.

"Do we need Farrakhan to dig up our skeletons," read a Johannesburg *Saturday Star* headline.

Farrakhan, head of the US-based Nation of Islam movement, arrived yesterday in South Africa where the *Saturday Star* and *Citizen* newspapers questioned both the wisdom of the visit and a planned meeting today with President Nelson Mandela.

The *Saturday Star* said that since all-race elections in 1994 which ushered in black rule, a "freedom ethos", including speech and political expression, had developed that demanded Farrakhan be allowed in.

"The sentiments he is likely to express are, however, in direct contradiction with that ethos. And, given the race and ethnic sensitivities of this country, they could be inflammatory," the newspaper added.

The *Citizen* said Farrakhan's views and comments had offended many people.

"We think President Mandela should have shunned a meeting with Mr Farrakhan who is, after all, not a foreign government representative or high dignitary whose presence in this country had to be acknowledged," it said.

The neo-Nazi Afrikaner Resistance Movement (AWB) said Mandela's ruling ANC shunned former US Ku Klux Klan leader David Duke during a 1994 visit to South Africa.

"The ANC...refused to have anything to do with a pro-white American politician, yet now they are falling over themselves to meet an anti-white American politician, much like dung beetles over a pile of horse droppings," the AWB said in a statement.

Farrakhan's statements have attacked Jews specifically and whites generally.

The ANC and president's office said Mandela's policy was to meet anybody regardless of their religious or political views.

Mandela will meet Farrakhan at the president's home in a luxury Johannesburg suburb this morning, presidential spokesman Parks Mankahlana said.

"No-one has approached the president's office in an official capacity to say he (Mandela) should not meet him," Mankahlana said.

Meanwhile, the US Justice Department wants to know if Farrakhan is enlisting as an agent of Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi.

Farrakhan visited Libya earlier this week and the official news agency JANA quoted Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi as saying he had agreed with Farrakhan to fight the US from the inside.

Foreign agents must register with the government, a Justice Department official said.

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Clinton's on a roll as wife takes the hot seat

SUDDENLY, they are America's political odd couple, Bill and Hillary Clinton. He's on a roll. She's on the hot seat.

He made Republicans squirm with a strong State of the Union address last Tuesday that was well received by the public.

His poll numbers are up, the Republicans are down. His string of vetoes on welfare reform, tax cuts and a balanced budget the last few months threw the Republican agenda into a stall. Republicans, taking heat for two government shutdowns, backed down and hastily approved a temporary spending bill.

She, on the other hand, was ordered under subpoena before a grand jury - Friday, an embarrassing first for a first lady. Her credibility is in doubt, her poll ratings are plunging and her high-visibility role as White House policy

maker is history.

For the first time, he is more popular than she is. Significantly so.

This isn't how it usually works in American politics.

First ladies traditionally float near the top of America's most-admired lists while their husbands soar and sink in the public's eye.

The Clintons have never fit the traditional mold of first couples, of course, but their political turnabouts have been dramatic by any standard.

"There are a lot of allegations about Hillary Clinton, and a majority of Americans think it's politically driven but nevertheless it's affected their attitudes," said pollster Andrew Kohut of the Pew Research Center. "Some of this is sticking. In fact, a fair amount of it is sticking, at least for now."

An activist, Mrs. Clinton often has

TERENCE HUNT
WASHINGTON

been a lightning rod for criticism. Many people think the president made a mistake by giving her such a big role, thus exposing her to attacks. After getting knocked around in the bruising fight over health care reform, she retreated to a more traditional first-lady role following the Republican election sweep in 1994. It helped her, temporarily.

"Her high point in public approval was at her low point in public visibility in late October of last year when she was quietly writing her book," Kohut said.

At the time, 58 percent of Americans approved of what she was doing.

Since then, with questions swirling about her role in the White House travel

office firings and the Whitewater affair, Mrs. Clinton's approval rating has dropped precipitously to 42 percent.

Campaigning last week in New Hampshire, she spoke of her life as first lady. "Some days it feels good and other days it is kind of hard," Mrs. Clinton said. "The political climate in our country today is kind of difficult."

Vanderbilt University political scientist Erwin Hargrove mused about the uncertainties facing Mrs. Clinton. "If she were indicted by a grand jury, that would be incredible. It would be bizarre, extraordinary. I don't know how the political system would cope with that."

First ladies are not technically public officials. They're not elected. They're not paid. And they have no official position in the government. They may be answerable to their husbands, but the extent to which they should be answer-

able to the public is less certain.

Ann Lewis, Clinton's campaign spokeswoman, charged that Mrs. Clinton is a victim of Republican attacks designed to hurt the president. "They will try to run a personally negative campaign against her - against her - as a way of getting at him," Lewis said.

If that were true, it doesn't appear to be working. There is no sign that Clinton has been hurt by the controversy over her wife, pollster Kohut said. In fact, the president is on a winning streak, with an approval rating of 50 percent or more.

Now, with the start of the presidential election year, the president holds a double-digit lead over the front-runner for the Republican nomination, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole. Some major polls don't even bother to match off Clinton with other Republican contenders. (AP)

Yemeni tribe frees one of 17 French hostages

SAN'A (AP) - Tribesmen yesterday freed one of 17 elderly French tourists they kidnapped in an effort to force authorities to release an imprisoned comrade, the French Foreign Ministry said.

A French Embassy staff member was "on the scene" with the captors, ministry spokesman Jean-Paul Dumont said in Paris, but he would not say who or where the envoy was.

"We are waiting. We are making no predictions," Dumont told The Associated Press. He said earlier that the hostages apparently were being well treated.

Yemeni reports yesterday spoke of only 16 hostages, which would be the number after the release of one captive. The name of the freed tourist has not been reported.

The hostages have been moved to Ma'en, a mountainous region some 500 km southeast of the capital, San'a, said government sources who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The abductors belong to the Al Aslam tribe and are demanding the release of a relative jailed for kidnapping an American oilman in September.

The tourists were taken hostage Thursday in the Ma'rib region about 200 km east of San'a.

The official news agency Saba said security forces were "on the trail" of the kidnappers but did not make it clear whether security forces have located their hideout.

French reports said the hostages were elderly, with many in their 70s and one couple aged around 85.

Such kidnappings are common in Yemen, an impoverished nation on the southwestern tip of the Arabian peninsula where almost every adult carries a gun.

In the past two years, more than 200 foreigners have been grabbed by tribesmen seeking to publicize their demands from the government. All were treated well and released safely, even though some spent up to a few weeks in captivity.

Hillary Clinton: I don't know where records were

WASHINGTON (AP) - First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton testified for about four hours before a grand jury that must decide whether criminal charges are warranted in the disappearance - and then rediscovery - of her long-sought law firm billing records.

Mrs. Clinton said she told the jurors assembled by Whitewater prosecutor Kenneth Starr what she has said before publicly.

"I do not know how the billing records came to be found where they were found" in the White House living quarters, said the first wife of a US president ever summoned before a grand jury.

Being called before a grand jury does not mean a witness has done anything wrong. Grand juries only determine whether sufficient evidence exists to justify an indictment.

Mrs. Clinton emerged from the courthouse the same way she arrived - with a wave and a smile. "It's been a long day," she said. "I, like everyone else, would

like to know the answer about how those documents showed up after all those years," she said. "I tried to be as helpful as I could in their investigative efforts."

She said most of the questions dealt with the law firm records, but "there were other matters discussed."

Starr declined to answer reporters' questions as he left the courthouse.

Afterwards, the White House said Mrs. Clinton wasn't told she was a target of the investigation or that she would have to testify again.

"Mrs. Clinton was not told today that she would have to return," White House spokesman Mark Fabiani said.

He said Mrs. Clinton answered all questions put to her.

At a reception in Washington when his wife finished her testimony, the president told supporters "I feel a lot better than I did when I got here. ... I am going home to take care of my lovely wife and daughter," Clinton said.



Anastasios Rachovistas of Luebeck, Germany grimaces after spending over a minute in the ice-cold waters of the Baltic Sea near his home, where temperatures fell to -14° Celsius yesterday and froze much of the area's coastal waters. (AP)

220 drown in Nigeria boat disaster

LAGOS (Reuters) - More than 220 people, most of them Nigerian traders, were drowned when their boat capsized last Wednesday off the southeastern Nigerian state of Akwa Ibom, the Punch newspaper reported yesterday.

The victims heading for Gabon in central Africa.

Witnesses said the exact cause of the accident was not clear but that the boat was carrying about 260 passengers and a large consignment of goods, including petroleum products. It said 36 people had been rescued.

The boat apparently developed engine problems and stalled, the newspaper said. "While the operators were battling to bring the engine to life, a great gale arose, tossed the boat ... pouring its contents into the sea," said Punch.

Fishermen in the area tried to rescue people, but the storm thwarted their efforts.

Punch said more than 170 bodies had been recovered and the local mortuary was filled with un-

claimed corpses. Punch said bodies continued to wash up on shore.

The accident was not formally announced by the military government, but the state-run news agency carried excerpts of the Punch report. It is not unusual for Nigeria's military junta to keep quiet about incidents that might add to the country's image as a center of decay and corruption.

Punch, which has been forced to close in the past for angering the government, quoted witnesses as saying the boat was carrying about 260 people but did not have enough life rafts or other safety equipment.

Boat accidents are common along Nigeria's Atlantic coastline where many of the vessels have no on-board radios.

Almost 200 persons drowned last August when their Cameroon-bound boat capsized off the southeastern Nigerian coastal town of Oron due to overloading.

A similar number were killed in a boat accident nearby in 1989.

Ian Smith's memoirs delayed by 'political correctness'

HARARE (AP) - Ian Smith, Zimbabwe's last white ruler, says publication of his memoirs has been delayed by a "political correctness" dispute and his references to guerrillas as terrorists.

Smith, 76, longtime prime minister of Rhodesia, as Zimbabwe was known, said British publishers Harper Collins "have a bit of a hang up" over sections chronicling the bush war that ousted him and political negotiations that led to independence in 1980.

"We're trying to iron it out," Smith said in a telephone interview from Cape Town, South Africa, where he is on vacation.

The Times newspaper of London quoted a Harper Collins spokesperson as confirming publication of the Smith memoirs was on hold. She did not give a reason.

Smith declared unilateral independence from British colonial rule in 1965 and led the nation's whites for 15 defiant years against UN economic sanctions and a burgeoning onslaught by black guerrillas that led to the first democratic elections in 1979.

Smith said his completed manuscript, entitled *The Great Betrayal*, refers to current President Robert Mugabe's guerrilla army as terrorists and that he refused to change the wording.

Firing squad executes child-killer

POINT OF THE MOUNTAIN, Utah (AP) - A child-killer who chose bullets instead of a lethal injection became the first American executed by firing squad in 19 years early Friday.

The white cloth target pined over John Albert Taylor's heart appeared to disintegrate as the four slugs fired by anonymous marksmen struck him just after midnight. The front of his blue jumpsuit quickly turned dark.

"I guess that answers that,

don't it," said Taylor's uncle, Gordon Lee, one of three witnesses invited by Taylor, through tears. "Johnny was lucky. It went quicker than lethal injection, but seven years is a long time to die."

Taylor, 36, had been on death row at Utah State Prison, 24 km south of Salt Lake City, since 1989, for the rape and strangulation of an 11-year-old girl. In December, he fired his lawyers and dropped all appeals, saying he preferred death to life in prison.

Yeltsin to Clinton: No to NATO expansion

PRESIDENT Boris Yeltsin said yesterday that he had raised the issue of NATO's proposed eastward expansion "very acutely" in a wide-ranging telephone conversation with US President Bill Clinton.

Yeltsin also said he sent a long communique to Clinton spelling out Russia's objections to an expanded NATO, and that Clinton had agreed to study it.

Yeltsin's comments to reporters were carried by the Interfax news agency the morning after his 45-minute phone call with Clinton.

The Russian president said he initiated the call, and he confirmed White House comments that he had reassured the US president on Russia's continued commitment to free-market and democratic reforms.

"All discussions about Russia abandoning economic reform are a bluff," said Yeltsin, who

this month removed the last key reformers from his Cabinet.

Yeltsin, who returned to work at the Kremlin late last month after a lengthy hospitalization for heart trouble, indicated that he was satisfied mainly with re-establishing contact with Clinton.

He said he and Clinton agreed to correspond more frequently "so as not to let a fracture arise in Russian-American relations."

Praising the US Senate's approval of the START II arms-reduction treaty on Friday, Yeltsin also said he would work with Russia's parliament so that by April - when Clinton and other leaders of top industrial nations meet in Moscow - Russia will have ratified the treaty.

START II, which calls for dramatic nuclear weapons reductions in the United States and Russia, now needs only the approval of Russia's legislature.

Some observers say that could be difficult with the hard-line parliament elected last month. Many legislators call for a tougher line in Russia's dealings with the West.

However, Yeltsin said yesterday that his telephone conversation with Clinton marked a new "honeymoon" in relations between the two leaders.

"The conversation was a sort of second honeymoon," Yeltsin told reporters about his hour-long telephone talk with Clinton.

He said his recent illness has created a gap in personal con-

tacts with the US president which prompted media speculation about problems in bilateral relations.

"At some point we passed the highest point in our (personal) contacts and then they weakened somehow," said Yeltsin who had spent nearly two months in hospital and a sanatorium after a second mild heart attack in less than a year in October.

"I think this was connected with my illness," Yeltsin said.

"They (doctors) did not allow me to worry, talk much. So other people they decided the presidents don't talk to each other, so they must have problems."

Yeltsin praised Clinton for keeping faith in him despite widespread doubts about possible changes in reform course by the Russian leader.

"I remained loyal to my friend and he also remained loyal to me," Yeltsin said.

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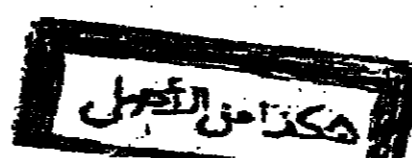
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'Wonder drug' may be dangerous

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

The fountain of youth has been revealed; the panacea to dozens of bodily ills has been discovered. The problem is that this "wonder drug" has been tested scientifically almost solely on mice, rats and hamsters, and the long-term toxicological effects on humans are unknown.

Since the publication in the US and Europe of half-a-dozen popular books on melatonin over the past half-year and a laudatory cover story in *Newsweek* last August, public demand in the US and Europe for the synthetic version of this natural hormone has skyrocketed, making manufacturers and authors millionaires.

Now one of the books, *The Melatonin Miracle: Nature's Age-Reversing, Disease-Fighting, Sex-Enhancing Hormone* by Drs. Walter Pierpaoli and William Regelson, has been translated word-for-word into Hebrew. The 224-page book, called *Ness Hamelatonin* and published by Modan and Arye Nir Publications, says the drug is easily purchased as an over-the-counter food supplement in health-food shops and pharmacies - which is still true in the US but no longer in Britain - and gives explicit dosages for all age groups. But it didn't bother to mention that our own Health Ministry has cracked down on the sale of melatonin and that it is very difficult to obtain here, even with a prescription.

Impelled by the book's breathless style and generous promises of good health, it won't be long before Israelis press their doctors for a prescription, even though many physicians and pharmacists don't know much about the hormone and its contraindications. Dr. Russel Reiter, a neuroendocrinologist and long-time melatonin researcher at the University of Texas in San Antonio, writes in his book *Melatonin* that the hormone should not be taken by children, pregnant or nursing women; women who are trying to conceive; people with severe allergies, immune-system cancers, mental illness, autoimmune diseases (such as multiple sclerosis or rheumatoid arthritis); or anyone taking steroids, as some conditions can be exacerbated by melatonin.

In addition, it must only be taken before bed as it could induce drowsiness at the wheel of a car or while working on dangerous equipment.

However, when this reporter called Hanassi Pharmacy in Haifa - one of the few importing the raw materials and making them into melatonin pills - and posed as a potential client, the duty pharmacist (who identified himself as Al-Addin) provided potentially dangerous information.

"We're all out of the drug; it is in such demand. But we expect to get a new supply in a few weeks," he said. The pharmacist added that I would need a prescription for it, but all I had to do was "ask any doctor."

I asked specifically if the pill was forbidden to pregnant women, to people with arthritis or other chronic diseases, or to children.

"No," he said. "No problem with any of this. It's safe for everybody."

He even claimed that it is put into baby food, an outright lie. Hanassi pharmacy sells only five-milligram pills; this is the maximum daily dose recommended for people over the age of 65 by Pierpaoli and Regelson; they say people up to 64 should take no more than 2.5 milligrams before sleep. Those in their early 40s should take no more than one mil-

ligram, the authors advise.

MAGISTER (Master of Pharmacy) Batya Haran, who heads the Health Ministry's pharmaceutical division, says the ministry decided a few months ago to bar melatonin sales in health-food stores because of popular articles that instigated careless consumption of the hormone.

"It's no longer regarded by the ministry as a food supplement, but rather as a drug," Haran says.

Israeli researchers who have spent years on melatonin research say the authors have conducted serious experiments on animals, but they charge that the claims in *Ness Hamelatonin* about efficacy and safety in human beings borders on charlatanism and that doctors and the public must beware.

"No one knows what dangers melatonin pills pose, as no one has done basic toxicological examinations," declares Prof. Yitzhak Nir, a senior researcher in clinical pharmacology at the Hebrew

University's School of Pharmacy who has studied melatonin for 20 years.

"This work, required of every drug manufacturer for a place on the ministry's official drug list to prove it is effective and not harmful, requires an investment of hundreds of millions of dollars and many years of clinical trials," he continues. "But with melatonin, such financial input is not feasible, as there are no patent rights on a natural substance."

Secreted only in darkness by the pineal gland - a pea-sized structure at the base of the brain - melatonin has been known to scientists for about 40 years. Natural levels can be tested from saliva, urine and blood. Once obscure and taken only by health-food faddists, melatonin has been the subject of much *in-vitro* and animal research, particularly by Prof. Richard Wurtman, a sleep researcher at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Frequent air travelers who take melatonin swear by its ability to re-set their biological clock and relieve jet lag, while others claim it helps them sleep without morning tiredness. Found naturally in large concentrations in some animals that hibernate in winter, it is believed to cause the ovaries to shut down temporarily and prevent pregnancy. The pineal gland regulates reproductive rhythms in animals, but it shrinks as people age and is believed by scientists to be only vestigial in humans.



BY RONA ENI

in people."

Clinical studies have backed only marginal claims relating to melatonin's effects on fertility, sleep and biological clock cycles.

Nir says he hasn't been tempted to take melatonin, even though he obtains small quantities for work on his rodents.

"If the brain no longer has any receptors for the hormone, what's the use of giving the drug? It will have no effect. What works on some animals doesn't necessarily work on people. And what is safe in animals can be risky in humans. There is too much that we just don't understand yet," he asserts.

DR. DORON Garfinkel, an internal medicine specialist at Holon's Wolfson Hospital responsible for the health of geriatric patients at the Migdalei Yam Hatichon institution in Tel Aviv, received his hospital's Helsinki Committee's authorization to test melatonin on old people who have trouble sleeping.

The research was published last August in the prestigious British medical journal, *The Lancet*. In a placebo-controlled crossover trial in 12 elderly insomniacs, he found that two milligrams of controlled-release melatonin (developed by Neurim Pharmaceuticals in Tel Aviv) significantly reduced the time it took for them to fall asleep and improved "sleep efficiency."

Dr. Moshe Laudon, a biochemist at Neurim, said that he and Tel Aviv University researcher Dr. Nava Zispe had developed the controlled-release form of melatonin, which they say mimics the tide-like behavior of the natural hormone. They have applied to the Health Ministry to have it recognized as a drug, but

this could take years.

"The half-life of melatonin is little more than 40 minutes, thus it loses its effect on sleep after two hours. If one takes a pill before going to sleep, one may wake up in the middle of the night," Laudon explains. "Thus, our pill releases the hormone slowly over a longer period."

Dr. Amnon Brzezinski, a senior gynecologist at Hadassah University Hospital in Jerusalem's Ein Kerem, encountered melatonin when working with Wurtman on its anti-ovulatory properties at MIT in the late '80s.

"We clocked the pattern of melatonin in healthy women and those suffering from the lack of a menstrual period; the latter had high levels of melatonin, which dampens the release of estrogen," Brzezinski recalls.

Dr. Michael Cohen developed a pill, called B-Oval, combining high levels of melatonin and low levels of progesterin as a contraceptive, which may also offer protection against breast cancer. In European studies involving 1,000 women, it has proved to be non-toxic, but it may take two years before approved trials testing efficacy are launched in the US.

Brzezinski, who has conducted laboratory tests of the drug, hopes Hadassah will be selected to join in clinical trials when the time comes. But he warns Israelis not to fall for all the hype about melatonin.

"The popular-book authors just get carried away," he says.

"Substances have different effects in different species, and even in the same type of animal. Just because a substance is naturally produced by the body doesn't mean it's safe as a pill. Women's bodies produce estrogen, but a pill given to the wrong person could kill.

Phone line for pregnant women addresses fears

HEALTH SCAN

POST HEALTH REPORTER

HALF of all pregnancies in Israel are unplanned, according to a survey carried out by doctors at Assaf Harofeh Hospital in Tzrifin.

Dr. Mati Berkowitz, who runs the hospital's open phone line on medications and pregnancy, says this means women who suddenly learn they are pregnant (in the eighth or ninth week) become very anxious about medications they took after conception.

Berkowitz, a pediatrician who recently completed two years of study in clinical pharmacology and toxicology in Toronto, set up the phone line for pregnant and lactating women a few months ago along with gynecologist Dr. Dan Sherman and Ruth Henzel, an expert on computerized information from the Sackler School of Medicine at Tel Aviv University.

Many pregnant women have exaggerated fears about the drugs they have taken, Berkowitz says. "Taking a prescribed dose of paracetamol [Acamol] for fever or pain during pregnancy will cause no harm. Neither will Rafapen [penicillin] and Moxipen [amoxicillin] antibiotics for infections. Untreated high fever or infections can cause direct harm to the fetus or the mother," he says.

However, all pregnant and lactating women should consult with their physician before taking any drug.

According to Berkowitz, out of every 100 healthy pregnant women, three or four will have babies with a defect. The risk increases to between 30 and 50 percent among women who take drugs that may cause defects if taken during the early stages of pregnancy.

Among those that are teratogenic (causing defects in the fetus) are the infamous Thalidomide and retinoic acid (currently taken for acne). The phone line, called Heryofone (at 08-9779309 Sundays through Thursdays) answers women's questions about their medication use. They get an answer from a professional within 24 hours, sometimes free and sometimes at a nominal fee, depending on the type of question.

A similar teratological service runs at the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical School, but is largely aimed at doctors.

SANGUINE SOLDIERS

Soldiers contributed 33% of all blood donations to Magen David Adom last year. According to MDA, 7,000 pints of blood came from volunteer donors in the IDF.

Recently, prizes and certificates were awarded at MDA's blood center at Tel Hashomer to IDF units that gave the most blood and to officers who did the most to ensure a high level of volunteering over several years.

STRAWBERRY FIELD NOT FOREVER

Mikhail Gorbachev, the former Soviet president, can finally get rid of the strawberry-colored birthmark on his head. *The Lancet* reports on a new treatment by

Vienna dermatologists to remove these red spots from skin. Doctors usually tell worried parents the spots will go away by the time the children are five years old, but that is not always reassuring.

The spots can be ugly if they are on the face. They may bleed, and when they disappear naturally they leave odd-looking skin behind. The University of Vienna Medical School team treated 68 babies (some had more than one spot) with a special laser.

After three months, 23 strawberry spots disappeared completely, while 55 were shrinking and only eight showed no improvement. The laser flashes on and off very quickly and destroys the blood vessels that make up the strawberry spot without harming the skin.

DIABETICS BEWARE

The Health Ministry will order pharmacies and health-food stores to remove from their shelves a food supplement claimed to reduce blood-sugar levels of diabetics to normal.

The ministry decided to take action after receiving a complaint from Prof. Itamar Raz, chairman of the Israel Diabetes Society, against the product, called Almotak and produced by Doctor Teva (no connection with the Teva pharmaceutical company).

The ministry will also file a formal complaint against the company, which it said has violated regulations barring the making of therapeutic claims for a food product. Raz said the ads, in newspapers and on the radio and billboards, are "misleading, highly irresponsible and potentially dangerous."

Raz urged diabetics to use only medications prescribed or approved by their doctors. Using other products can cause irreversible damage to their health and even endanger their lives, he warned. "There are medicinal plants that can cause direct harm rather than the promised benefit," he said.

CLINTON: HELP PARENTS QUIT SMOKING

US President Bill Clinton has drafted children to join his stop-smoking drive. In a recent appeal on TV, Clinton said that giving up smoking and persuading adults to do the same was "the cool thing to do."

"You young people cannot believe the potential influence you can have," Clinton said.

Noting that his daughter Chelsea kept pressuring his mother Virginia to stop smoking until she finally did (she died of cancer soon after), Clinton added: "You can encourage every adult you care about and love to stop smoking. None of us are going to live forever, but you have the choice to maximize, to increase the chances of your living a long and full life," said the president, who occasionally puffs on a cigar.

"I'll do what I can, but I want to encourage you to do everything you can to get everybody you know to remain smoke free," Clinton said.

There's much to learn from disabled children

JUDY SIEGEL-ITZKOVICH

It was the last straw for Yaniv's teacher, a rabbi at a Jerusalem state-religious school. His 14-year-old pupil was not only a "troublemaker" in class who "never paid attention," but he also had the hutzpa to suddenly appear in class wearing a kippa embroidered with the word "Nirvana."

When the rabbi found out that this was the name of a rock band, he called the Matara Institute, which specializes in dealing with children suffering from learning disabilities, hyperactivity and attention-deficit disorders.

"We told the rabbi he could kick the boy out of class - or try to understand his internal quality world," Matara director Dr. Stuart Chesner recalled. "Fortunately, he chose the latter. The rabbi and Yaniv sat down together to discuss Nirvana. For a couple of hours, Yaniv explained the background of the band and the history of rock music. The boy finally felt a sense of belonging, of being special, and the rabbi understood that what the rock band meant to Yaniv, Judaism meant to him."

The rabbi began listening to the music, not to become a rock "convert," but to understand and identify with his pupil. A year later, Yaniv has stopped disrupting the class. He is an excellent Talmud pupil and is preparing for the five-point matriculation exam in the subject, Chesner reported.

Children with learning disabilities "often don't internalize the notion of a teacher as a positive thing. So they get little out of their classroom study unless the teacher is able to enter their internal quality world and appreciate their differences," Chesner said.

The Matara director related this true story before a packed auditorium during a seminar on "The Brain, Language and Learning Disabilities," organized recently at Jerusalem's Shaare Zedek Hospital in memory of the distinguished director of its pediatric neurology unit, Prof. Naomi Amir, who suddenly died of cancer a year ago. Amir, revered by many Jerusalem parents

whose children she treated, worked until the day before she died and kept her illness a secret from nearly everyone.

CHESNER NOTED that parents of children with learning disabilities become totally preoccupied with their children's problems.

"Usually, the parents blame themselves for their kids' failures in school," he said. "The children complain that their teachers make them feel stupid. They tend to hide their problem, so it's more difficult to diagnose. All of these problems can lead to alienation and antisocial behavior."

"According to a number of foreign studies, 40 percent of children with attention-deficit-hyperactivity-disorders (ADHD) and learning disabilities develop depression. As adults, they are much more likely to get into trouble with the law than those who did not have these syndromes as children."

Among the techniques used to root out this behavior are exercises for the children and their parents. A child is asked to write about an object with which he identifies.

"I was born a fresh, clean notebook," one ADHD boy wrote. "Then I got dirty and was stepped on, and pencils were stuck into me. Maybe something can be reconstructed and saved, so I can be clean again..."

The child is given assignments to discover his natural talents, to view himself from a different angle - as a leader, for example.

"He can then start solving his problems from a safe perspective," Chesner explained.

Another technique is asking the child to pick an animal he identifies with, and then to select other animals that resemble his parents' personalities. Then they are helped to reach a meeting of minds.

Parents are taught by Matara psychologists to enter their children's world, but also to reduce their "total preoccupation" with them. They are asked to make a chart of tasks that are urgent and important, urgent but not important, not urgent but important, and not important and not urgent.

"We suggest that they stop doing the



Prof. Naomi Amir, who died last year, was revered by parents for her work.

non-important, non-urgent things so they make room for things that give them peace of mind," Chesner explained.

THE ROLE of late speech development was discussed by Dr. Ruth Shalev, acting director of Shaare Zedek's pediatric neurology unit. Delays in toddlers' acquiring speech often serve as an early warning of learning disabilities and ADHD later in childhood, she said, citing a hospital study she conducted with her colleague, Dr. Varda Gross-Tsur.

They studied 90 children in 10 Jerusalem kindergartens that accept normal and language-impaired youngsters in a joint framework. Half of them suffered delayed language skills, while the rest were normal and served as a control group.

Normally, infants start vocalizing around

the age of eight months, Shalev said; at 12 to 15 months they point out things; and at 18 months they form small groups of words.

At two, a normal child will say small sentences and he should speak normally a year later. Any delay or difficulty at each stage constitutes language impairment.

One of the researchers' findings was that those with language impairment were five times more likely to have difficulty understanding simple arithmetic problems than normal children. These findings corroborate studies carried out abroad that children with late language development run a higher risk of developing learning disorders such as dyslexia and dysgraphia (difficulties in reading and writing) as well as attention-deficit and hyperactivity disorders.

Shalev noted that despite statistics, many children who acquire language skills late are perfectly normal in intelligence and other skills, they merely take longer to develop language dexterity.

"Some people say that behavior problems cause language problems, while others say language problems cause the toddler to feel frustrated and misunderstood and to develop behavior problems," Shalev said. "We think that some dysfunction of the central nervous system is a factor in both language and behavior problems."

"Socioeconomic problems can also be a factor. But if every child grew up in a good, loving home, there would still be language problems," she added. "There isn't just one factor."

An arsenal of tools is available to deal with these disorders, including speech and language therapy, psychological or psychiatric help and even the select use of drugs such as serotonin-receptor inhibitors.

The earlier the problem is diagnosed, the easier it is to treat and the greater the child's chances of living a normal life, Shalev concluded.

Modern-day photocopier chemicals pose no dangers

RX FOR READERS POST HEALTH REPORTER

I have been moved into a small office with two other people and a photocopier machine. I'm nervous about the health dangers of the chemicals in the machines, especially when the windows are closed in winter. Am I overly fearful, or does it pose a danger to health? R.G., Jerusalem

Prof. Shmuel Yamai, a senior toxicologist at the Technion in Haifa, replies: The old models of photocopying machines, produced over a decade ago, did have chemicals that may have leaked into the air and posed some risk.

However, today, all the models that work on regular paper use carbon dust with an extremely low concentration of solvent. These are sealed tightly in the cartridge, and have no smells or leaks. In addition, the laser involved in the copying is closed inside and is not harmful.

I don't believe photocopy machines pose any real danger, unless, perhaps, you live in the room where it is located and you never ventilate it. The simple type of photocopier and fax machine using heat-sensitive paper is not harmful.

Jerry Westin, a carcinogen expert at the Hebrew University Hadassah Medical Faculty's department of environmental and occupational medicine in

between two chambers of the heart. Congenital heart defects occur in eight to 30 babies per 1,000; the incidence depends on whether you are referring to minor heart defects that do not prevent the child from having a normal life, or to more serious ones that do.

How to deal with the holes depends on their size and position. Those in the atrium are less common and less likely to close off by themselves than holes in the ventricle. The holes often close off spontaneously and naturally, like scar tissue or when it's covered by some additional tissue close to the hole.

Children with the defect can be considered completely normal if the hole closes. Even if it doesn't close over several months or years and remains small, they may be regarded as normal, but they have to be watched. Only a minority of the larger holes require surgery.

Rx For Readers welcomes queries from readers about medical problems. Experts will answer those we find most interesting, and replies will be printed in the twice-monthly column on the Health Page. Write Rx For Readers, c/o Judy Siegel-Itzkovich, The Jerusalem Post, P.O.B. 81, Jerusalem 91000, or fax 02-389527, giving your initials, age and place of residence. Phoned-in queries will not be accepted.

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Terrorism as bargaining chip

ARMY intelligence chief Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon told the Council of Jewish Communities of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza on Thursday that Yasser Arafat was doing better in curbing Palestinian terrorism against Israelis. In the past four months the number of attacks has been halved, and their effectiveness drastically reduced.

But, according to those present at the briefing, Ya'alon also said that Arafat has not done anything to destroy the infrastructure of the terrorist organizations. Their training camps, recruitment centers, arms-supply operations and intelligence networks are intact. Some arms have been collected from individuals, but the Palestinian Police has not attempted to disarm the terrorist armies of the Hamas, Islamic Jihad and the radical PLO factions. The partial lull in terrorist activities is a result of Arafat's appeal to the Islamist leadership, and intelligence work by the Palestinian security services, which managed to abort several attacks.

A partial lull in terrorist actions is no mean achievement. But it cannot be considered more than an agreement on a temporary change in tactics. Arafat's argument has been simple: Don't rock the boat while the Israelis are withdrawing. A major terrorist action may produce the kind of backlash in Israel that will force the government to stop the redeployment.

But Arafat is not telling the terror groups that the days of the "armed struggle" are over. On the contrary, he misses no opportunity to reassure them that the armed cadres are being kept at the ready for a reason. Ya'alon believes the reason is that Arafat wants to use these terrorist

armies as a bargaining chip in the final-status talks - i.e., he intends to threaten the use of force unless his demands are met.

Such tactics are what distinguishes the way dictatorships and democracies pursue peace agreements. Like Arafat, Syrian dictator Hafez Assad uses the threat of force as a counterpoint to his talk of peace. There were those who viewed the quiet in Lebanon during Secretary of State Warren Christopher's recent visit to the region as a sign that the Syrians are truly "serious about peace."

But Friday night's clash with the Jibril unit proved that Assad fully intends to continue using force whenever it may prove useful. The Jibril group, sponsored by Syria, operates from an area controlled by the Syrians.

Action in Lebanon seems directed particularly against the South Lebanon Army. It is no secret that the SLA is worried that an agreement between Israel and Syria and a resultant Israeli withdrawal from the security zone would expose it to danger. The Beirut regime's recent announcement that SLA commander Gen. Antoine Lahad is a traitor was designed to further demoralize the SLA. Saturday's Jibril mission was apparently intended to assassinate him.

Such tactics should serve as a reminder that dictatorships do not consider peace agreements an ultimate goal, but a means to achieve strategic, economic and political advantage. When speaking to their own people, neither Arafat nor Assad preaches the acceptance of Israel. They want to be certain that once the benefits of the agreements are exhausted, their public will be prepared for the use of force.

Dangers in Asia

AN analysis by Sweden's Peace Watch organization suggests that the world has entered 1996 with fewer wars in progress than at any time this century. It may be so - but the potential for catastrophic conflicts remains as high as ever, as increased tensions over Kashmir and Taiwan in the past few days demonstrate all too clearly.

Tension between China and Taiwan is at least as dangerous as that between North and South Korea, since China has stepped up its not-so-veiled threats to invade what it regards as a renegade province. While China has little history of attacking countries beyond its recognized borders, it has always proved ruthless in dealing with areas it considers to be inside them, as Tibetans know to their cost.

On the India-Pakistan frontier, Kashmir is a flash point as unpredictable as the Middle East, and the two states involved are real or potential nuclear powers. The flash point heated to dangerous new levels at the weekend after an alleged cross-border Indian rocket attack killed more than 20 people at Friday prayers in a Pakistani mosque. Pakistan showed no inclination to buy India's denial of responsibility and as tens of thousands of furious Pakistanis gathered for the funerals, Indian and Pakistani troops traded gunfire in the Jammu region.

India's undoubtedly coincidental testing of a long-range version of its nuclear capable Prithvi-2 missile yesterday did little to allay fears that these two traditional enemies are again sliding down a slippery slope. By successfully extending the Prithvi's 150 km range to 250 km, India is now capable of launching a devastating missile attack on most of Pakistan's major towns. It is an enhanced capability that Pakistan already has vowed not to leave unanswered, suggesting a new spurt to the subcontinent's arms race. There is no doubt, as US officials have pointed out, that the introduction of sophisticated missiles into such regional conflicts can do nothing but increase tensions.

It is unfortunate that amid such escalating conflicts in Asia, the United Nations, still licking its wounds after Somalia and Bosnia, is in greater disarray than at any time in its 50-year history. Worse still, the secretary general continues to trumpet the organization's feeble successes and adopt an ostrich attitude to its disastrous failures. NATO may have taken over in Bosnia, but there is no NATO waiting to rescue Taiwan, Pakistan or South Korea. It is high time the UN stops congratulating itself and decides how it is to adapt to the developing threats of a new world order of dangerous and unmanageable ethnic conflict.



Reevaluate this law

ISRAELIS may not have realized it, but January 2, 1996 was election day - or at least it could have been.

If the new Basic Law: The Government, passed by the Knesset in 1992 but not to be enforced until the 1996 elections had been in effect at the time of Yitzhak Rabin's assassination, Israel would now have a new Knesset and a new prime minister-elect, who would be working on putting together a new government.

The new Basic Law stipulates that if the prime minister dies, is permanently incapacitated, resigns or is removed from office, special elections are to be held on the Tuesday preceding the 60th day after the triggering event. In this case, that date would have fallen on January 2, 1996.

The election would have been for both the Knesset and the prime minister.

Under the new Basic Law, if the triggering event for a special election for the prime minister occurs with less than one year remaining in the Knesset's term, then the election will be for both the prime minister and the Knesset. Israel would have had a full-fledged election campaign on its hands in November and December.

It is highly questionable whether such an election would have been feasible logistically, given the nominating procedures of the major parties. Other parties and would-be candidates for the premiership would have been hard-pressed to fulfill the eligibility and registration requirements. Two months is a relatively short time in Israel for a full-fledged election campaign.

Current reports indicate that the government must decide on early elections by mid-February for a June election date because it will need the time in between - at least three and half months - to gear up for an election. It would be difficult to complete the process in nearly half the time, in the

Constitution foresaw such eventualities, for they seemed to create the post of vice-president specifically for the purpose of assuming a vacant presidency.

Although the original constitution left the door open for special presidential elections, this possibility was ruled out by later amendments, which ensured that the vice-president would serve out the duration of a deceased president's term.

The great benefit of the American system is that it ensures continuity of government. No elections, no leadership struggles, no intra-party battles. There are also serious drawbacks to the system - primarily that it has produced vice-presidents with less than stellar qualifications for the presidency. The office itself has little real purpose or content other than preparing for a presidential vacancy.

In one of the drafts of the new Basic Law: The Government, a provision was included for a deputy prime minister that mirrored the role of the American vice-president. The deputy prime minister was to run on the same ticket as the prime minister and assume the premiership upon its vacancy.

Israel does not need to create another political office devoid of real content. However, it would be wise to consider the permanent appointment of one of the ministers as deputy prime minister who would immediately assume the premiership upon its vacancy and complete the premier's term.

After the death of a national leader, continuity and unity are imperative. There is a time for mourning and a time for campaigning. Israelis should reevaluate the implications of their new Basic Law: The Government, lest they find themselves in a situation of national strife when they most require national unity.

The writer is a Fulbright Scholar in Jerusalem researching Israeli constitutional law.

60 days mandated in the new Basic Law.

Even if it were feasible to hold an election within 60 days of the death of a prime minister, such a move would not have been desirable. Elections are divisive affairs, certainly no less so in Israel than in other countries. In the intra-party struggles for candidate selection, it is natural for candidates to attempt to differentiate themselves from their fellow-party opponents. Candidates attack each other in the process.

The process is duplicated and magnified in a general election campaign. Elections displace national unity and focus on disunity. This is their nature.

November and December were months of mourning: a time to remember Yitzhak Rabin, not to unsheath the sharp knives of election battle.

Catapulted into a tumultuous election campaign, Israelis wouldn't have had time to mourn Yitzhak Rabin's death.

ONE OF the inspirations for the new Basic Law, which mandates direct election of the prime minister, was the American presidential system.

Unfortunately, Americans have had too much experience with presidents dying in office. In this century, four US presidents have so died, two by assassination. In all, eight American presidents died before completing their terms.

Perhaps the drafters of the US

There is a time for mourning, and a time for campaigning. People need space for both

Hutzpa!

LARRY DERFNER

DIASPORA leaders are always saying they want a "frank dialogue" with Israel over our "changing relationship." Let's throw out the old cliches, they say, and take a hard look at where we are, what we mean to each other.

So Israeli author A.B. Yehoshua gave it a shot. Last week he told the World Jewish Congress's Global Assembly in Jerusalem that as far as Israel is concerned, "We don't need you anymore."

Not that we don't like you anymore, he said. We just don't need you. We are not needy like we used to be. We don't need your money, because we are a solidly middle-class society that's fast becoming a rich one.

If any of you would like to come live in Israel, that's fine, but we don't need you to immigrate be-

cause this country is terribly overcrowded and getting more so. We don't need your political influence because Israel, you see, is a sovereign nation that's been doing a damn good job handling its own affairs.

And what did the assembly say to Yehoshua for his candor? "Hutzpa!" "Stick to writing novels!" "Where'd you get that suit?" They couldn't handle it. And what, after all, did Yehoshua tell them? Anything that anybody with two eyes can't see?

I was discussing real estate with a contractor relative of mine from Los Angeles, and we figured that prime real estate in Tel Aviv is worth four times as much, per square meter, as prime real estate in Beverly Hills. So maybe we exaggerated, even grossly. Maybe it's only worth twice as much. We need their money?

ISRAEL has the most crowded roads of any country in the world. Fields and valleys and hills are being ripped up for new highways and housing tracts; we're running out of space.

The IDF is turning away tens of thousands of able-bodied young men because it doesn't know what to do with them. We need more people?

Western governments are falling over each other to pat us on the back and help us out with the peace process.

The only thing American Jews have had to do with the peace process is that a lot of them are trying their best to screw it up. We need their influence?

You would think Diaspora Jews would be happy and proud that we can stand on our feet now. They helped us, and now we can help ourselves. Their work is finished. They've succeeded. We've succeeded.

I'm sure that about 98 percent of Diaspora Jews, at least those who pay any attention to Israel, are thrilled. I can just hear them: "Hey, Bernice - Israel doesn't need us anymore! We can take that trip to the Bahamas!"

"We don't have to write our congressmen! They're not going to hack us anymore to go live there! We can relax!"

But the World Jewish Congress's Global Assembly, and all the other Jewish congresses and assemblies and committees and conferences are not your average Diaspora Jews. They are what's called Diaspora Jewish machers.

And for all their good intentions and dedication to this country, Diaspora Jewish machers (along with Diaspora-affairs Israeli machers) have a certain self-interest in this issue.

Diaspora-Israeli relations is, among other things, an industry that employs thousands of people. Their jobs depend on Israel being dependent.

For all their generosity, the big donors who rule the Diaspora Jewish organizations gain a world of prestige, and access to prime ministers and presidents, because their contributions to Israel make them our "partners," our "brokers."

So when A.B. Yehoshua told them the obvious truth, the machers weren't about to listen, because they need us to need them. Our self-sufficiency is mainly a threat to them.

This is a neurotic Jewish relationship, A.B., and candor is not appreciated.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

GLOBAL WARMING

Sir, - You performed a valuable public service by printing Michael Perlman's article, "Can't imagine it" (January 17), in which he indicates the growing scientific consensus that global warming "could turn into all-out climatic mayhem" and indicates some of the "basic changes" needed to effectively limit global heating.

However, I was disappointed that he failed to address one of the major causes of this threat: animal-centered diets and the livestock agriculture behind them are contributing substantially to the greenhouse gases that are migrating up into the atmosphere, blocking the escape of the sun's heat from the earth.

The burning of tropical forests to create pasture land and areas to grow feed crops, the digestive and excretive processes of cattle, the production of chemical fertilizer and pesticides, and the extra refrigeration necessary to keep animal products from spoiling, collectively contribute to the primary "greenhouse effect" gases: carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxides and chlorofluorocarbons. When we add soil erosion and depletion, air and water pollution, and threats to ecosystems, it can be seen that a shift to less harmful plant-based diets is rapidly becoming a societal imperative.

RICHARD H. SCHWARTZ
(Author of *Judaism and Vegetarianism*)
Beit Shemesh (Staten Island, N.Y.)

SUNDAY SUPPLEMENT

Sir, - The letter from Hassia Ben-Harari ("Sunday Supplement," January 11) touched a very sensitive nerve. When will you understand that not all your readers are of American origin even if many of them are? Even among those who are, I should imagine that a good number have been here long enough to have become out of touch with day-to-day American politics.

With two minor amendments, I am in complete agreement with everything Ms. Ben-Harari has written - those amendments being (a) the crossword (I, too, am a crossword buff, but find the Monday one far too "American" to be of interest); and (b) to her selection of "Peanuts" and "Feiffer" I would add "B.C."

EDITH DINAR
Bat Yam.

Four excellent reasons to continue the Sunday supplement! Ed. J.P.

EDUCATIONAL PROBLEMS

Sir, - Education Minister Amnon Rubinstein's latest adventure - the Exhibition of Educational Achievements in Israeli Secondary Schools - is curiously lacking in some of the "achievements" being registered at our state schools.

There is no pavilion at the show depicting how boys and girls gather around the most popular vending machine in the school corridor - the condomat. There is no pavilion showing our kids smoking hash in the toilets. There is no pavilion explaining why more and more good teachers are abandoning the profession because students' TV-inspired violent behavior, condoned by their parents, is making life unbearable for dedicated teachers.

JOANNA HARRIS
Haifa.

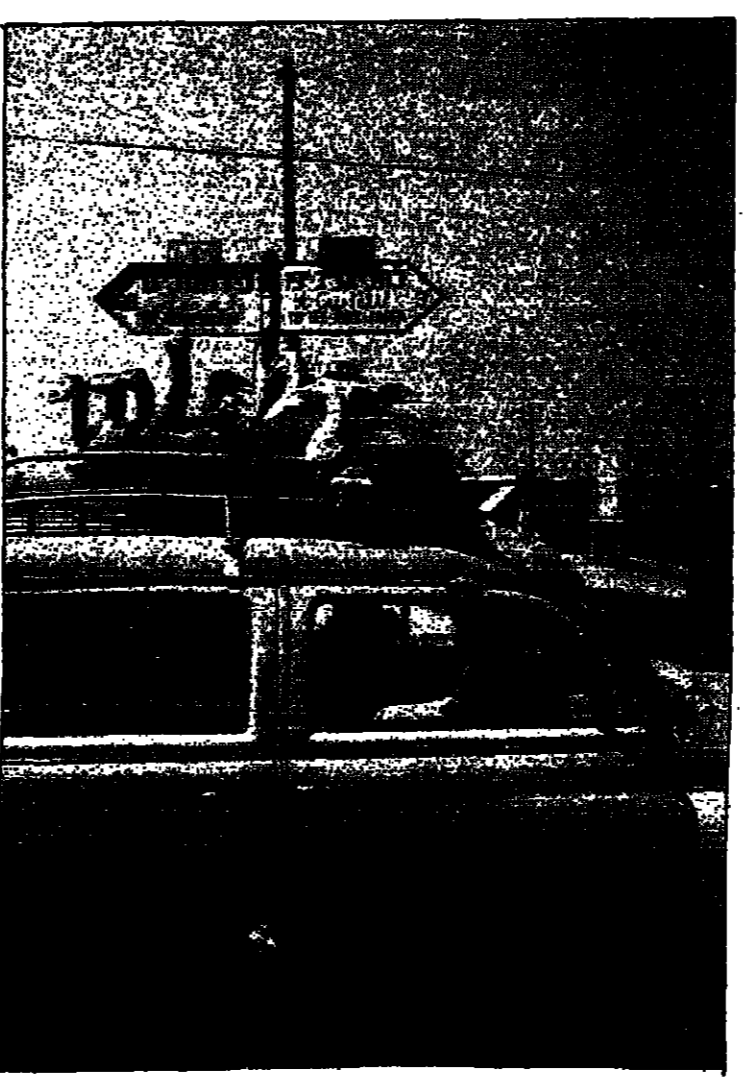
INFANTILE CONDUCT

Sir, - I was much surprised by the infantile conduct of the organizers of King Hussein's visit to Tel Aviv in not inviting a representative of the Likud to at least one of the functions.

I should like to emphasize that I am not a member of any political party and I reserve the right to judge and support any action which, in my opinion, contributes to the welfare of the state. In this case, ignoring the party which represents a large sector of the population shows a lack of self-confidence and political maturity. Is this the government's idea of democracy?

SHLOMO YURMAN
Ramat Hasharon.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



HONK, HONK! These geese with the upper-deck view hopped on a cab for a bird's-eye view of Tel Aviv in 1955. (Warner Braun)

POSTSCRIPTS

TACKY WEDDING of the month: eight Taiwan couples got married inside a luxurious \$1 million public bathroom that one of the couples designed and built.

Bride Chiu Chin-luei designed the toilets, set in a public park in the city of Taichung, and her groom, Lee Wong-tsung, built them.

"Since the bathroom is our creation it is very meaningful to us and therefore we decided to have our ceremony in here," Chin said.

Chiu and Lee also celebrated their engagement at the lavatory. They said they had chosen the site for the festivities because it was the place everyone visits most often.

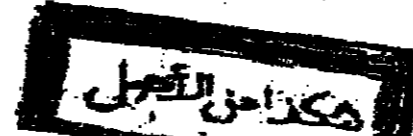
THE WORLD'S oldest mother now wants to do it again.

Rosama Della Corte of Italy, who set a record by giving birth at 62 with artificial insemination, is planning to beat that by giving birth again at 64.

Della Corte said she wanted another child "so that when I and my husband die, Riccardo [her son] will not grow up alone."

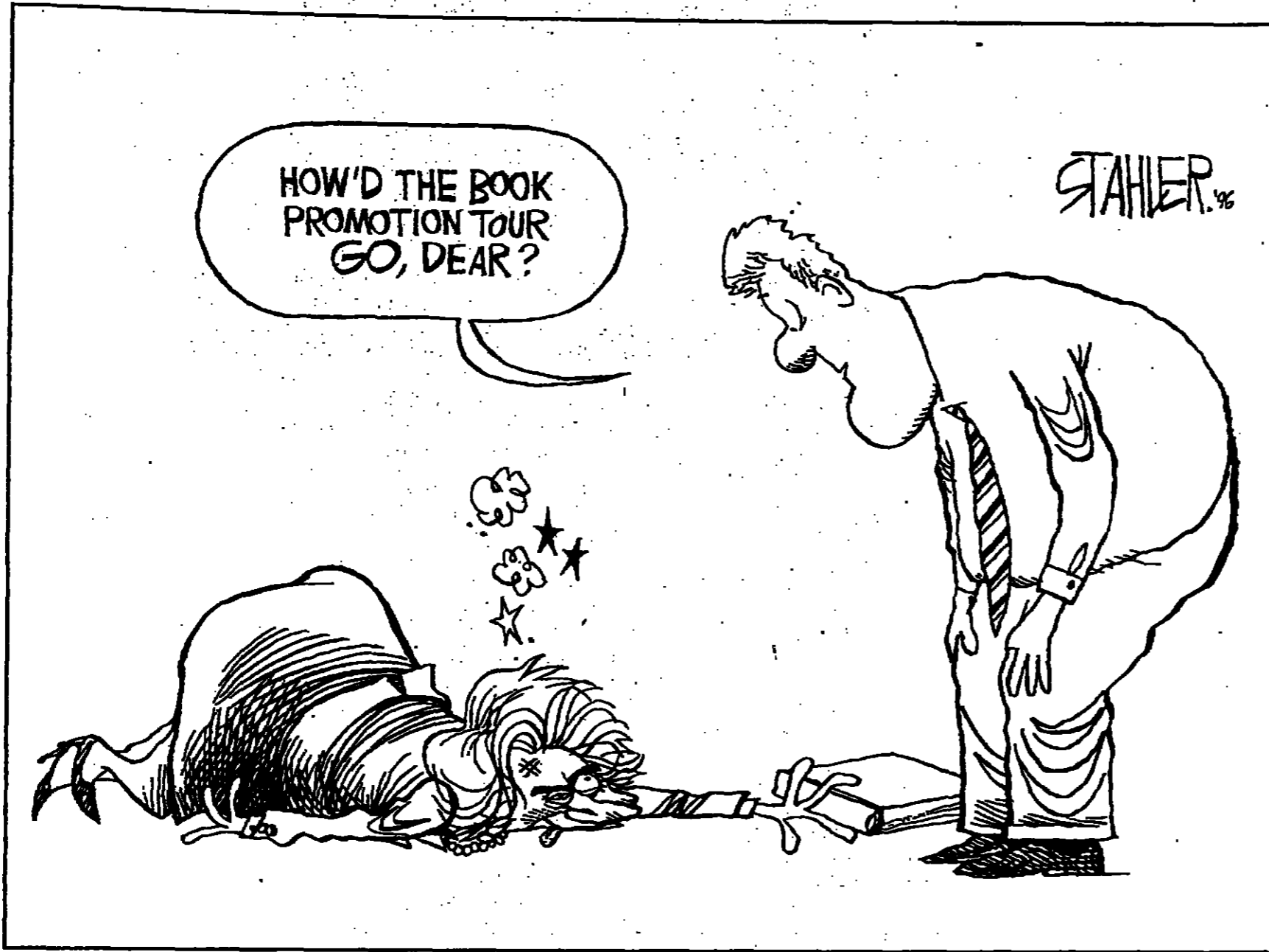
European politicians have said the idea of 18-year-olds with 80-year-old mothers is unconscionable, and Germany, Italy and France have banned advanced-age births in reaction to Antinori's work.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.



AMERICAN OUTLOOK

Sunday, January 28, 1996



Poetic justice Newt bogs down the revolution

By ROBERT WRIGHT

It is important not to let life's special moments pass without celebration. Certainly the Republicans didn't make this mistake a year ago, when they took control of Congress for the first time in four decades. They held champagne parties in committee rooms, invited the Mighty Morphin' Power Rangers to the Capitol steps, and chanted "Newt, Newt, Newt" as the new speaker convened the 104th Congress with a specially made oversized gavel. Well, it's January again. Feeling festive? Me, too. But it looks like the theme of the celebration will be different this time around. A year after Gingrich set out to take this town by storm, the revolution has gotten more thoroughly bogged down than even the optimists among us had dared hope.

NEWT FEVER

It would be easy to forget how good things looked for Gingrich and the Republicans as 1995 began. After all, public dislike of Gingrich has now become such a constant that pollsters can use it to test the accuracy of their equipment. Gingrich's publisher has discounted his book in hopes of freeing up a few acres of warehouse space. The Republicans' budget showdown with President Clinton has brought them ever-lower esteem. And Gingrich's mouth has played such a large role in this debacle that a couple of months ago leading Republicans took the Speaker aside and asked him to speak less often.

Still, it's true: There actually was a moment early last year when Gingrich stood astride the world. The question on Washington's mind was whether posterity would remember him mainly as the leader of a revolution in Congress or whether, instead, he'd choose to occupy the White House and guide history from there.

Misfortune per se does not warrant sustained revelry. If Gingrich and his revolutionaries had just run into bad luck — been lost in the recent snowstorm and never heard from again, say — then only a brief and decorous celebration would be in order. What gives liberals an excuse to don their togas and debauch until sunrise is

the source of the Republicans' problems: Gingrich's own snivelling nastiness and the essential dishonesty of his enterprise.

Remember the Contract with America? It said to voters: We'll cut taxes, boost defense spending, and balance the budget — all without demanding sacrifice from you. To the shock and horror of liberal commentators, voters replied: Hey, Why didn't the Democrats think of that? We commentators, after recovering from the ensuing depression, began gamely predicting that the Contract's contradictions would eventually catch up with Republicans. And — Who would have dreamed? — this actually happened. At some point it became clear that, indeed, if you're going to cut taxes and balance the budget, you do have to ask for sacrifice.

CUTS BEGIN

Let's skip the tired Jesuitical discussion of whether reducing previously projected spending on Medicare (and Medicaid, etc.) really qualifies as "cuts." The core point is this: Under the Republican plan, tomorrow's Medicare patients

What gives liberals an excuse to don their togas and debauch until sunrise is the source of the Republicans' problems: Gingrich's own snivelling nastiness and the essential dishonesty of his enterprise.

will get skimpier care than they would if it weren't for a tax cut that will mainly help upper-class people. It is the ugly irreducibility of this fact that has got the Republicans in their current rut. And Gingrich knows it. That's why he's trying to focus attention elsewhere — most recently, back on the tired Jesuitical discussion of what is and isn't a "cut." When Clinton used that word

repeatedly in a press conference, Gingrich went on a rampage, calling the president "factually challenged" and saying this showed why budget negotiations are doomed.

BRATTY TONE

Gingrich conducted this performance in the distinctively bratty tone that Americans so manifestly dislike. Which brings to mind another cause for celebration: Gingrich, as he himself would put it, just doesn't get it. A year ago it seemed eerily possible that this street brawler might get a makeover for his new role as historic figure: affect an air of Victorian civility and gracefully consolidate the power he had thuggishly won. But it soon became evident that Gingrich either didn't understand the need for such a ruse or literally isn't capable of the requisite self-control. During his first day in office, he accused Democrats of using "a fairly stupid strategy" and "a pathetically narrow, partisan gimmick." Music to my ears.

None of this is to say that either the state of the union or the state of the Democratic Party is cause for joy. Suddenly thrust into the minority, some Democrats have assumed nearly as hysterical a tone as Gingrich used when in his shoes. There has indeed been too much cheap populist denunciation of "cuts," and not enough serious grappling with the budget. Still, however circuitous the route, however cynical the motivation, President Clinton has finally produced a serious plan to balance the budget. And, stunningly, it's a plan that could actually sustain popular support — thanks largely to the way Republicans have blundered into the role of bad cop. It will truly be sad if this historic moment doesn't get seized. Still, there will at least be the consolation of watching Republicans suffer for the failure. So let's raise a glass, shall we? It isn't every day that poetic justice comes to Washington.

Robert Wright is a senior editor of *The New Republic*.

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N.O.W. censures feminist racists

By ALAN DERSHOWITZ

Nineteen ninety-six may well mark the breakup of the National Organization for Women. Such a breakup would serve the interests of most American women, since the organization, as presently constituted, is often discredited and immobilized by its radical fringe.

That fringe is exemplified by Los Angeles talk-show hostess Tammy Bruce, who heads the Los Angeles Chapter of N.O.W. Recently, Bruce was called on the carpet by the national board of N.O.W. for racist statements she made during the Simpson case and its aftermath.

Bruce is a single-issue radical feminist who sees the world through the prism of female victimization. For her, every issue comes down to men abusing women. She has become a caricature of the women's movement, who blames all the ills of the world on men. Racism is not significant in Bruce's world where sexism is the only evil. We should reach our children "not about racism," Bruce said on "Nightline," but about "violence against women." During the Simpson case and its aftermath, her rhetoric began to generalize from O.J. Simpson, the black man, to black people. This led Patricia Ireland, the national president of N.O.W., to censure Bruce for "racially insensitive comments" and for "statements that clearly violate N.O.W.'s commitment to stopping racism." Bruce refused to appear on a Philadelphia talk show with any African-American women, saying that she did not want to "argue with a bunch of black women."

Bruce is a single-issue radical feminist who sees the world through the prism of female victimization.

That was the apparent star which broke the back of N.O.W. officials. As one put it: "We've worked very hard to overcome the stereotype that we are a white, middle-class organization." Tammy Bruce simply refuses to listen to those black women who saw the Simpson case as raising issues of racial injustice as well as spousal abuse. Indeed, she directed a slap at the face of many black women when she declared that her emphasis on spousal abuse offered "a needed break from all that talk of racism." She exacerbated that slap when she screamed that Simpson was not "welcome in our country" or "in our culture." This suggested, to some, a contemporary variant on the old racist chant "Go back to Africa." As one black leader put it: "She has become myopic and, quite honestly, racist in her own pursuit to have her own star rise on the back of O.J. Simpson."

Despite the embarrassment that Bruce has caused the women's movement, she still has supporters among the radical fringe. One N.O.W. activist blames the censure of Bruce on "some black leaders" who are trying to intimidate "the white leaders." This kind of divisive rhetoric is a sure sign that the 30-year-old organization is ready for a breakup into a more centrist group that is receptive to a wide range of feminist views and a radical group that is ready to make war on all men. This breakup scenario has been typical of virtually all ethnic, racial, religious and political organizations. It should come as no surprise that it will happen with women as well. African-Americans have the mainstream National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, as well as radical groups such as the Nation of Islam. Jews have centrist organizations, such as the Anti-Defamation League, as well as radical groups such as those inspired by the late Rabbi Meir Kahane. Tammy Bruce is the Farrakhan and Kahane of the women's movement, and she should be marginalized by any women's organization that seeks to influence mainstream attitudes and actions.

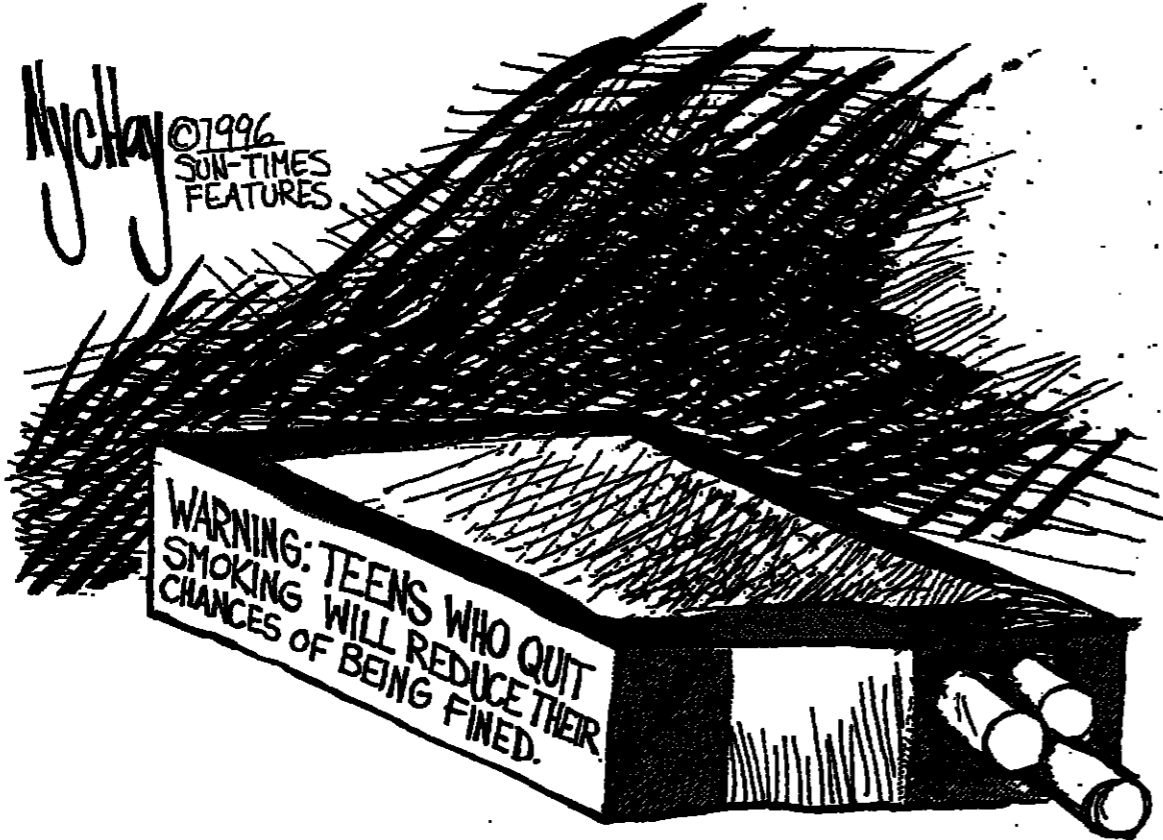
The latest outrage attempted by followers of the radical feminist fringe is to urge callers to block the 800 number which has been set up to receive orders for O.J. Simpson's new videotape. This illegal action is comparable to blocking access to abortion clinics. It interferes with a citizen's First Amendment right to choose to hear a side of a controversial story that these feminist censors do not want heard.

N.O.W. has the opportunity to shed its image as a radical feminist organization and to move more toward the center, where it could attract support from a larger number of mainstream women who share a vision of gender equality but eschew the man-hating approach of Tammy Bruce and her fringe followers. It will not be easy to make this move — it never is. The NAACP suffered a short-term loss in numerical strength when it rejected the extremism of some of Afro-centric blacks. It tried to compensate for this loss by opening its arms to Farrakhan and his followers. This, too, backfired and resulted in loss of financial support and influence. N.O.W., too, will probably suffer some short-term loss of radical members who were attracted to the organization by the male-bashing rhetoric of Bruce and her followers. But in the long run, N.O.W. will be better off without Bruce and her ilk dividing women from men and whites from blacks.

Alan M. Dershowitz is a professor of law at Harvard University. His newest books are *"The Advocate's Devil"* (Warner Books) and *"The Abuse Excuse"* (Little, Brown & Company).

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EDITORIAL CARTOONS



Chiseling away at the budget

BY JONATHAN CHAIT

As we enter into another round of budget brawling, we'd like to remind the combatants that the answer to their problem is out there. It isn't perfect, but it's far preferable to either Clinton's or the GOP's dream budget: and far, far better than a stand-off till November. It belongs to the 21 Democrats called the Blue Dogs, or the Coalition. On almost all the central issues, their plan makes sense to us. Here's how simple it is:

Tax cuts: None. Zero. Bowing to the obvious truth that you can't have it all ways, the Coalition avoids the Republicans' gift to the wealthy in the form of a capital gains tax cut, as well as the less offensive, but still unnecessary, Clintonian middle-class tax cut. The Coalition budget even, in a tiny way, raises taxes, by lowering the Consumer Price Index. The CPI adjusts inflation, used to raise tax brackets and Social Security benefits. By lowering the adjustment, payments stay more static, but the small hit is spread diffusely and evenly.

Medicare: Clinton's demagoguing on this has been truly nauseating. But the disproportionate emphasis on it among the Republicans, given their tax cuts for the rich, is noxious. So why not split the difference? The Coalition cuts \$163 billion, and does it the fair way, by raising premiums on more affluent beneficiaries. Already, their numbers have been a magnet for both sides. The Republicans now cut \$168 billion, down from \$184 billion. And Clinton has inched up to \$125 billion from \$102 billion.

Social welfare: Here's where the philosophical differences between the Coalition and Republicans get deeper. The Blue Dogs wisely leave policy upheavals like entitlements and block grants for another debate, and just make the cuts. They cut Medicaid more than the White House, but preserve its entitlement status. They cut welfare more, but leave it with the federal government. The Coalition also preserves one of Washington's best anti-poverty programs, the Earned

Income Tax Credit.

Yes, there's plenty about the Coalition budget we don't like. While the Coalition is deaf to the pleas of traditional Democratic constituencies, like unions, they are more friendly to big business. Blue Dogs only cut corporate tax loopholes by \$29 billion, half Clinton's admirable, bolder cut. And they couldn't restrain themselves from sneaking some tasty treats into their own backyard: the budget preserves the arcane system of agricultural subsidies. But compared to Republicans' pork, these

Now it's up to Republicans. What they do will prove whether they're really interested in balancing the budget or just in rewarding their friends.

are bits of jerky: For the oil companies, the GOP plan allows drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. For banks, there's the guaranteed student loan system, which reaps them a huge profit and eliminates competition at public expense. And for all other businesses, there's permission to withdraw billions from employee pensions, and future capital gains tax cuts. All told, the GOP budget looks like it was intended not to impose fiscal discipline but to tilt the burdens of government to the poor and the benefits to the rich. If there is to be a compromise, this has got to change.

Most important, the Coalition budget is free of gimmicks. Take discretionary spending. All three budgets cut this general operating budget, which pays for everything from the Coast Guard to the IRS to roads and schools. This part of the budget is easy to cut, since we won't know until the future what exactly will be cut, and, unlike entitlements, it has no organized constituency. People are more likely to know that Uncle Sam is mailing them a

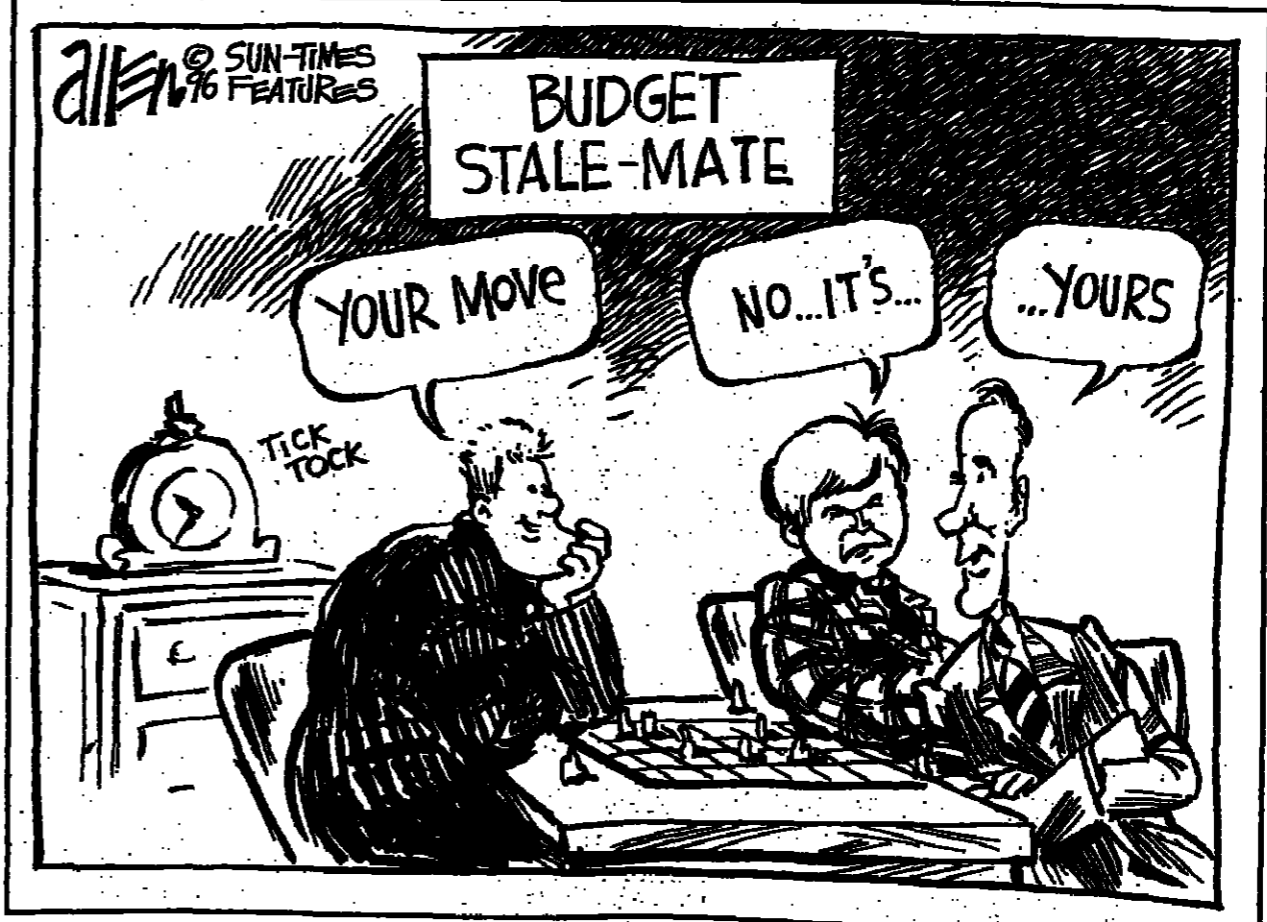
check than repairing a road they drive on. But the Republican budget cuts \$91 billion, an impossible sum. And while Clinton's budget cuts less, it saves the biggest hit for the seventh year, when people will be unprepared. The Coalition budget cuts slightly more than Clinton's but spaces it evenly over seven years. This is a crucial aspect of fiscal honesty: the Coalition budget hacks a larger chunk every year for seven years, for a total of \$500 billion. The other two budgets save only \$300 billion and rely on seventh-year tricks. Clinton does it with the last-minute cuts. And for Republicans, a lot of the savings are either temporary, like the final-year rush to pay capital gains tax, or completely phony. Balancing the budget in seven years isn't so hard. What the Blue Dogs pull off is a plan more likely to stay balanced in eight years, or twenty.

At the end of the last round, Republicans announced they would reach out to the Blue Dogs. Democrats have already met them halfway: Clinton has strongly hinted he'd be willing to abandon his tax cut in a heartbeat. And congressional Democrats have lined up the votes to pass the Coalition budget. Now it's up to Republicans. What they do will prove whether they're really interested in balancing the budget or just in rewarding their friends. If Bob Dole really wants to prove his statesmanship, this is where he should start.

Jonathan Chait is a reporter for The New Republic.

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SYNDICATE



مكتبة القرآن الكريم

SUNDAY COMICS

Doonesbury

G. B. TRUDEAU

A multi-panel comic strip featuring the Doonesbury characters. The panels show a character talking about a 'MRS. BUY' and another character saying 'DON'T DO IT!'. There are several other panels with dialogue and drawings.

PEANUTS

by SCHULZ

A comic strip from Peanuts. It features characters like the Doctor and a girl. The dialogue includes: "WHY NOT?", "WHO KNOWS?", "PSYCHIATRIC HELP? I JUST HAD A TERRIBLE THOUGHT..", "WHAT IF I FINALLY MEET THAT LITTLE RED HAired GIRL, AND WHAT IF SHE REALLY LIKES ME?", "BUT WHAT IF IT TURNS OUT THAT I DON'T LIKE HER AS MUCH AS I THOUGHT I WAS GOING TO?", "HOW COULD I TELL HER? HOW COULD I BREAK UP WITH HER? HOW COULD I LEAVE HER?", "YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT LEAVING SOMEONE YOU HAVEN'T EVEN MET?", "PSYCHIATRIC HELP? HOPELESS... COMPLETELY HOPELESS..", "MAYBE I COULD LEAVE HER NOW, AND MEET HER LATER.."

Blondie

By BOB ALTMAN

A comic strip from Blondie. The panels show Blondie and Dagwood. The dialogue includes: "LOOK YOU'RE RICH!", "YUP.", "JUST FLEW IN FROM THE COURT.", "HOW'D THAT JOB WORK OUT?", "PRETTY WELL, I THINK.", "THE GUY WHO INTERVIEWED ME SAID I WAS A REAL FINE BOSS.", "AND THEN HE ASKED ME A FEW QUESTIONS.", "HE WENT THROUGH MY WHOLE RESUME IN TWO SECONDS.", "SO HOW'D YOU DO?", "WELL, I'M FEELING NERVOUS.", "BUT I THINK I ONLY DID ONE THING WRONG.", "ON THE WAY OUT, I DID LET ME IN THE BUTT."

Calvin and Hobbes

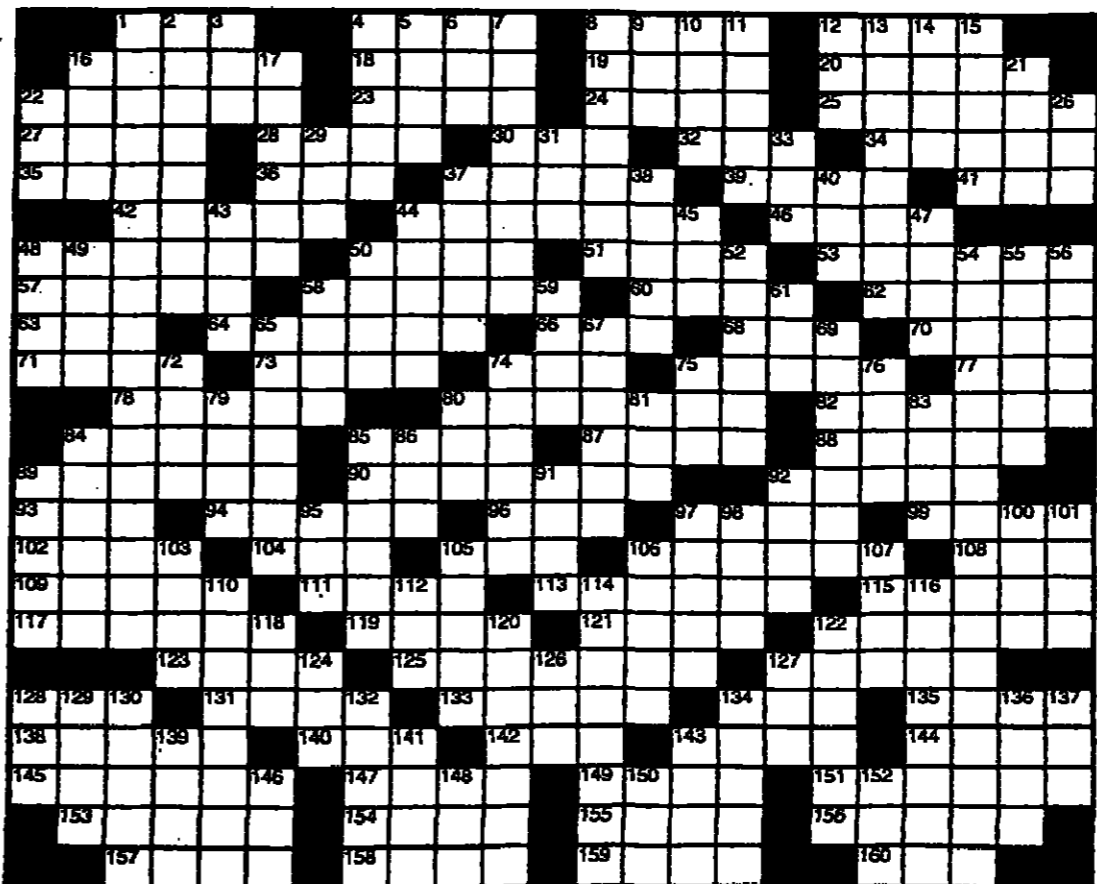
by NEWMAN

A comic strip from Calvin and Hobbes. The panels show Calvin and Hobbes. The dialogue includes: "HEY, CALVIN! ARE WE NEAR A SLAUGHTERHOUSE, OR DID YOU FORGET YOUR DECORATOR?", "PROF. HEAD, SUSIE! YOU'RE SO UGLY, I HEAR YOUR MOM PUTS A BAG OVER YOUR HEAD BEFORE SHE KISSES YOU GOODNIGHT!", "IT'S SHAMELESS THE WAY HE FLIRT.", "WHAT'S IT LIKE TO FALL IN LOVE?", "WELL... SAY THE OBJECT OF YOUR AFFECTION WALKS BY.", "FIRST, YOUR HEART FALLS INTO YOUR STOMACH AND SPLASHES YOUR INWARDS.", "ALL THE MOISTURE MAKES YOU SWEAT PROFUSELY.", "THIS CONDENSATION SHORTS THE CIRCUITS TO YOUR BRAIN, AND YOU GET ALL WOOLY.", "WHEN YOUR BRAIN BURNS OUT TOGETHER, YOUR MOUTH DISINTEGRATES AND YOU GARBLE LIKE A CRETEEN UNTIL SHE LEAVES.", "THAT'S LOVE?!", "MEDICALLY SPEAKING, HEY, THAT HAPPENED TO ME ONCE, BUT I FIGURED IT WAS CONWISE."

A cartoon sequence showing a character trying to shovel snow. The dialogue includes: "GREAT IDEA, THAT SAVES HALF THE TIME AND HALF THE WORK.", "SHOVEL SHOVEL SHOVEL SHOVEL.", "RATS! I MISSED.", "DAMN! ME TOO.", "HEY, LOOK, WE ONLY MISSED EACH OTHER BY A COUPLE OF FEET!", "ALL RIGHT! WE'RE STILL IN BUSINESS!", "HEY, WE'RE SNOWED IN! I'LL SHOVEL OVER TO YOU.", "LET'S BOTH SHOVEL, AND WE CAN MEET IN THE MIDDLE!"

TODAY'S SUNDAY PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
- Got the gold medal
 - Hercules
 - Roman garment
 - Out of danger
 - Native-born last
 - Boone's ally
 - Small stream
 - Sacred song
 - Singer Roméo
 - Goose ending
 - Arline to Tel Aviv
 - Tolerated
 - Navada town
 - Glass section
 - de-sec
 - Puppy's mom
 - Actress Veslugo
 - Chickens' card
 - Tennis
 - Mr. Abzug
 - Dutch painter
 - Knock
 - Give back (money)
 - Conjecture
 - School military prep.
 - Be of importance
 - Wood on a bulb
 - 'Yah, indeed': Sp.
 - Peanut
 - Red as —
 - Comedian Berle
 - Fender/bender result
 - Play part
 - Comer
 - Develop gradually
 - Get As on a list
 - Tri
 - Ye — Groups
 - Bed magnet
 - Woody's son
 - Youth org.
 - Wall painting
 - Consistent
 - Glowed
 - Vann's co-worker
 - Ingen city
 - Angry
- DOWN**
- Chuck Norris
 - TV show
 - Out-of-date
 - Gun gp.
 - African antelope
 - Fluffy fruit
 - Type of cube
 - Musical piece
 - Star
 - LaSalle's name
 - Lubricate
 - Moslem deity
 - Health resort
 - Fireproof material
 - Go bankrupt
 - Church official
 - Folder tower
 - Show up
 - Walter's handout
 - Adult males
 - Small amount
 - Whichever
 - German city
 - Spill
 - Montana city
 - Out of the way
 - Tender piece
 - Tea go
 - Summerhouse
 - Cannon salute
 - Compas ac.
 - Designer Chanel
 - Religious rite
 - Car's brother
 - Legal document
 - Damage
 - Stewart-Konik-Lemmon film
 - Make beloved
 - Line a mesh
 - Ence
 - Astonaut's org.
 - Rocky hill
 - Adrian Padgugue
 - Jack's neighbor
 - Extant conversation
 - 2nd "she blow"
 - Hanna's sibling
 - Gibson or Ot
 - Lounge
 - Director Preminger
 - 's dir
 - Order Rapids collage
 - Burnwing animal
 - Mrs. Monroe
 - Glossy paint
 - The Gas.
 - Star
 - 'Trinity' author
 - Diet
 - Weep
 - Tumbler
 - Awls
 - Fencer's weapon
 - Actor Bruce
 - Guinness or Balm
 - Warning
 - File amount
 - Verve
 - Teacher
 - Puna (peet)
 - Clue of the —
 - impossible
 - Innovative
 - Spanish gold
 - Hamilton
 - venetia
 - Summerhouse
 - Hair
 - To end —
 - Wringing tool
 - Car fuel
 - Be an accomplice
 - Hamilton
 - venetia
 - Popular food
 - Ulmate
 - line
 - Huber's partner
 - Farm structure
 - Equipment
 - "Who's the Boss?" character
 - Pete's summer
 - Black cuckoo
 - Fish eggs
 - George Gerzshuk's teacher





Today's exercise in Bosnian peacekeeping

BY CHARLES LANE

People of Bosnia and Herzegovina! The Army of the Emperor of Austria and King of Hungary has crossed the frontier of your country. It does not come as an enemy to take the land by force. It comes as a friend to put an end to the disorders...

— Austro-Hungarian troops announcing the Habsburg protectorate over Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1878, from *The Bridge on the Drina*, by Ivo Andric

Thus began the last full-blown exercise in multinational peacekeeping in Bosnia. The Dual Monarchy didn't waffle about neutrality among the parties. "All those who behave themselves will be protected," announced the Austrian colonel in Andric's epic. "Peace and order must be maintained everywhere. It must be, whether they like it or not." And Austria-Hungary didn't worry about mission creep, or exit strategies. Its soldiers, bureaucrats and businessmen introduced everything from flush toilets and railroads to police and courts. Peace and prosperity lasted until Russian-backed intrigues aroused Bosnian Serb sentiment against the empire, leading to Austria's disastrous 1908 annexation and, then, World War I. But until then, Bosnia had enjoyed a virtual golden age of modernization. Now American troops and tanks have rumbled over the new bridge on the Sava River, just as Franz-Josef's steeds pranced over the bridge on the Drina 118 years ago. This American-led NATO protectorate, sanctioned by a modern-day Congress of Berlin at Dayton, is, like Franz-Josef's mission, couched in humanitarian terms. Like the Austrian expedition, though, its primary purpose is to restore order in Europe's underbelly.

But there is a difference. The threat in Bosnia to the King-Emperor's interests was clear and present. Vienna, Andric wrote, could no longer tolerate "violence and disorder" and "misery and misfortune" in Bosnia because Bosnia stood "at the frontiers of his lands." America's frontiers, by contrast, are nowhere near Bosnia; so the Clinton administration stands accused of risking U.S. troops for a small, peripheral country. The mission is moralism — "foreign policy as social work," says Michael Mandelbaum of Johns Hopkins University in a recent Foreign Affairs opus. Or it is aggrandizement — the prelude to a "Third American Empire."

Then again, sometimes the stakes really are the highest in small, peripheral places. Can a case be made that repairing Bosnia serves historic American interests, not just protean American values? I think it can — though

admittedly the Clinton administration has not been good at articulating what is necessarily a long-term, even farsighted, argument. Partly, this is because the administration prefers self-congratulatory moralistic rhetoric. And partly, it is just impolitic to talk with appropriate bluntness about what a flop united Europe has turned out to be.

Why are we in Bosnia? You might as well ask why we are still in Europe, a continent with ancient, but so far unfulfilled, pretensions toward peaceful self-rule. Three times this century, powers deemed hostile to the U.S. have attempted to exploit Europe's chronic divisions to gain hegemony over the continent: Kaiser Wilhelm's Germany, Hitler's Germany and the Soviet Union. Each time, many urged the U.S. to stay out of the quarrel. Each time, however, the economic and political repercussions of permitting hostile domination of the other shore of the Atlantic outweighed the costs of intervention.

And if the Clinton administration had really wanted to stop genocide in Bosnia, the time to have done that was four years ago. Mandelbaum criticizes Clinton both for threatening to bomb Bosnia to stop the suffering of its people at the hands of the Serbs and then for not fulfilling the threat because it lacked popular and allied support. The real reason Clinton didn't bomb is that, like George Bush before him, he was inclined (not to say desperate) to believe that post-cold war Europe could, and should, handle its own security. The fall of Srebrenica in July 1995, which discredited the Anglo-French U.N. peacekeeping mission, demonstrated that this hope was premature. Our restraint wasn't really doing "the allies" much of a favor.

To be sure, the U.S. is not acting now to stop a hostile power from taking over Europe. Serbia is not the Third Reich. And the scenario under which the war spreads "like a brush fire" to Albania, Greece, Turkey and God knows where has always been pretty far-fetched. Nevertheless, the war in Bosnia has destabilized Europe in subtle, but far-reaching ways. Before the war, Europe was preparing to enjoy an historically rare moment of power-sharing, mediated by organizations such as NATO and the European Union. These multilateral groupings, for all their flaws, promised an end to the great-power competition that led Europe, and the Americans, into war so many times in the past.

But nationalistic war in the Balkans threatens European "values," and the Euro-order upon which they are based. Partly this is because each major European state has its own historically determined sympathies and enmities in the Balkan fray and hence its own ideas how to solve, or exploit, the problem. Partly it is because the inability of Europe to end the war

suggests ominously that nothing else can be accomplished through cooperation.

Only America is capable of sorting out the deadlock and hence preventing the entire post-nationalist atmosphere on the continent from backsliding dangerously. This is so not only because the U.S. is the sole superpower. It is also because we are, uniquely, a Western country that enjoys a measure of impartiality among the states of the West — periodic French suspicions notwithstanding. The old formulation of NATO's true goals — "to keep the Russians out, the Americans in, and the Germans down" — still holds, albeit in modified, post-cold war form.

Great-power competition on the European continent would pose much higher costs for the U.S. than we are now shouldering in Bosnia. Of course, as Mandelbaum argues, "post-Cold War Europe lacks great European military powers to prosecute such a rivalry," and the likelihood of dangerous competition among these states is, therefore, near zero. But that would not necessarily obtain forever in the case of U.S. disengagement, as Mandelbaum himself acknowledges a few pages later in his article, when he says the U.S. must retain a military presence in Europe and Asia to preserve regional balances of power. Otherwise, he notes, Germany and Japan might be tempted to rearm, even with nuclear weapons, setting off a "dangerous chain reaction."

This is not a high, immediate risk. But Bosnia isn't D-Day, either. It is a limited commitment of 20,000 troops — though it may well take more than the year Clinton has promised to yield lasting results. In this sense, the American mission necessarily does contain elements of both "social work" and empire. We have to leave behind some sort of self-sustaining political order. In particular, lasting peace cannot be built on denial about responsibility for the war and atrocities. NATO must provide security for a thorough investigation of mass grave sites the Serbs are currently scrambling to conceal; it is absurd that American troops could sit in their M-1A1 tanks mere miles from Srebrenica, fretting about "mission creep."

But, considering the benefits of a stable and cohesive Europe, the potential costs to the U.S. of even a fairly aggressive role in Bosnia seem justified. Like it or not, a U.S. presence in Bosnia has become a test of America's historic engagement in Europe as a whole. The only thing worse than flunking that test would have been not to show up for it.

Charles Lane is a senior editor of *The New Republic*.

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Clinton blames budget chairmen for breakdown

BY ROBERT NOVAK

In his 40-minute telephone conversation with Republican leaders last week before the budget talks collapsed, President Clinton blamed the breakdown on the Senate and House Budget Committee chairmen: Sen. Pete Domenici and Rep. John Kasich.

The participants in the conference call are obeying a vow of silence. But Democratic and Republican sources say the president vented his irritation with the chairmen for cutting down his proposals. Domenici and Kasich, though not in the actual negotiation, frequently were called on by GOP leaders for their expertise.

A footnote: At a fundraiser with Washington corporate lobbyists, Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole predicted the collapse of the talks in advance of a conference call. "This is not arithmetic," Dole told the lobbyists. "It's politics."

WHITEWATER BASKETBALL

Senate Whitewater investigators are seeking videotapes of the Arkansas-Texas Southern basketball game played in Fayetteville, Ark., on Dec. 28, 1993, in hopes that television cameras lingered on a sky-box containing Bill Clinton.

White House Deputy Counsel Bruce Lindsey's testimony at the Whitewater hearings last week established that the Whitewater Development Corp. and the Madison Guaranty Savings & Loan were discussed during this game. Lindsey said he talked with former Arkansas State Securities Commissioner Beverly Bassett Schaffer in poultry magnate Don Tyson's box.

Lindsey said he did not remember whether Clinton was in the box for those talks, leading investigators to look for videotape. Eight days before the basketball game, the president's handwritten notes questioned whether he could count on Schaffer's support in the Whitewater investigation. Shortly after Gov. Clinton named her in 1985, Schaffer approved a stock offering by the soon-to-be-bankrupt Madison S&L (represented by Mrs. Clinton as an attorney).

TERM LIMITS TARGETS

Americans for Limited Terms will spend hundreds of thousands of dollars beginning this week for a New Hampshire television spot blasting Dole for not signing a congressional term limits pledge.

The commercial asserts "all but two" presidential candidates have signed the U.S. Term Limits pledge for three House terms and two Senate terms. The two are Clinton and Dole, the Republican front-runner. Dole has privately contended it would seem hypocritical for him to sign the pledge after opposing term limits for years.

"Come on, Bob Dole and Bill Clinton," the commercial says, "America can't afford to wait another 36 years [Dole's tenure in Congress] for term limits." It implores viewers to "call Bob Dole and Bill Clinton today and ask them to sign the U.S. Term Limits pledge." Town criers will be sent to 10 New Hampshire towns to sing the same message.

NO SEN. CHENEY

After Republican Sen. Alan Simpson of Wyoming announced his retirement, the Senate GOP campaign chairman — Sen. Alfonse D'Amato — recruited Lynne Cheney, chairman of the National Endowment for the Humanities under Presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush.

Cheney was born and educated in Wyoming, and her husband, Dick, was the state's longtime Republican congressman (before becoming secretary of defense). Both Cheneyes were possible candidates for the Senate in 1994, but neither ran.

However, Mrs. Cheney explained to D'Amato that she and her husband do not live in Wyoming anymore.

CONGRESSMAN MORRY?

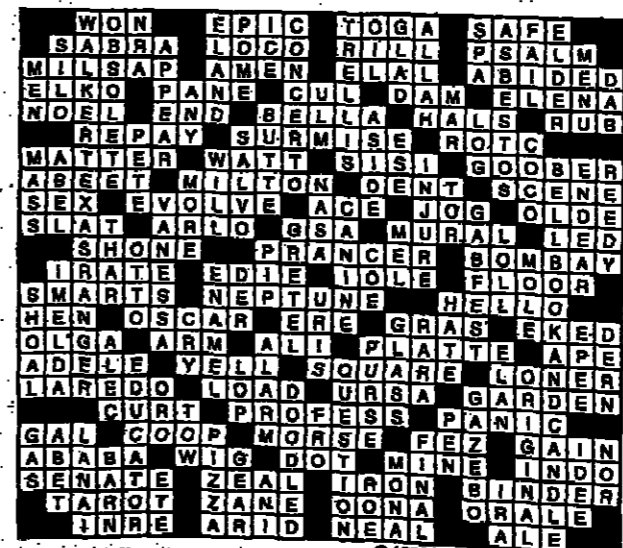
Although multimillionaire industrialist Morry Taylor has made little progress in his self-financed campaign for the Republican presidential nomination, Michigan GOP leaders would like him to run against a Democrat Republicans love to hate: House Minority Whip David Bonior.

Taylor lives in the Detroit suburb of Grosse Point Farms, which is not included in Bonior's partly blue-collar suburban district.

Although that district is solidly Republican in presidential elections, the militantly liberal Bonior wins there with ease (62 percent in 1994). May 14 is the registration deadline for Michigan's Aug. 6 congressional primary elections.

Robert Novak is a nationally syndicated columnist of the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

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Filters play tricks with color

ON CAMERA

DAVID BRAUNER

LENS filters pass certain colors of reflected light through while retaining or absorbing other colors, thus preventing them from reaching the film.

Filters can be helpful when working with black-and-white film, which does not respond to contrast and brightness generated by color the way the human eye does.

For example, a blue sky with clearly visible white clouds often translates into a dull gray in which the clouds are hardly distinguishable in a black-and-white photograph. The color combination of red flowers against green foliage, though highly contrasted in the mind's eye, is tonally unimpressive on film.

A colored filter—primarily yellow, orange, red, green or blue—can correct the relative contrasts and render a natural-looking photograph. The darker filters also have the effect of creating dramatic, night-like skies from a midday scene.

A red filter passes red light and blocks green light; a green filter passes green light and blocks red light. But it is more important to know when to use a particular filter:

- Yellow—slightly darkens blue sky, thus accentuating the clouds.
- Orange or deep yellow—brings out contrasts in yellow and red (flowers, sunsets) as well as darkening blue skies and water.
- Red—increases contrast; renders skies spectacularly dark; dramatizes sunsets; in portraits, lightens skin blemishes; enhances the textures of stone (archite-

ture), fabrics, sand and snow.

- Green—lightens foliage; darkens reds; in outdoor portraits, produces natural, healthy-looking skin tones.

- Blue—lightens blues in water and sky; increases haze in landscape, waterfall and marine scenes.

Blue and red filters also can be especially effective when used with color film to produce evocative images. For example, use a blue filter to intensify a cold winter scene or a red filter to heat up a barren desert landscape.

A POLARIZING filter functions like slatted blinds; when properly aligned by rotating, it blocks out a certain number of light waves vibrating at angles not parallel to the slats of the microscopic crystals.

The multi-purpose polarizer can be used with either black-and-white or color film, on its own or in conjunction with other filters. Learning to correctly rotate it takes a bit of experience, but the effort is worthwhile for many outdoor shots.

The polarizer cuts out unwanted reflections, especially from water and glass. It allows the camera lens to see through a glass window clearly and through water's surface glare to the bottom of a stream. It has, however, no effect on reflections from metallic or mirror surfaces.

Polarization also deepens blue skies almost unnaturally. The effect it has, especially on slide film, is known as color saturation, an abnormal enrichment of all shades and hues. On black-and-white film, a red filter and a



A green filter absorbs much of the red light, making the red tomatoes look dark and natural. (David Brauner)



A red filter absorbs much of the green light, making the red tomatoes look pale and anemic. (David Brauner)

polarizer create a night effect in a shot of a blue daytime sky.

Because all of the above filters block out a certain amount of light, the photographer has to remember to increase the exposure. Generally, for lighter filters, an SLR's through-the-lens metering will be fairly correct. For denser, darker filters, readings tend to overcompensate leading to overexposure. Therefore, it's always a good idea to bracket (over- and underexpose) to cover the margin of error.

Two filters—the UV haze and the 1A Skylight—block out virtually no light and so there is no filter factor in exposure. The film

records unseen ultraviolet radiation as haze, but the blocking effect of a UV filter renders the scene as our eyes see it. Contrary to common belief, a UV filter does not cut out visible haze.

The 1A Skylight performs like a UV filter, but also slightly increases saturation when used with color materials.

Most photographers leave an all-purpose 1A or UV filter on all their lenses at all times to protect the vulnerable front element from scratches, dust and water. It's far simpler to clean a filter than a lens and infinitely cheaper to replace a damaged filter than a damaged lens.

The pedantic 'Herr Doktor'

THERE AND THEN
SRAYA SHAPIRO

IRASCIBLE Dr. Wallach could not stand sloppiness. He shouted loudly at all: his nurses, at his patients, at anybody who failed to follow his instructions to the letter.

The hospital he built outside the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem at the turn of this century was spotlessly clean. Except for the bedbugs.

Dr. Wallach came to the Old City to save poor Jews' lives and guard them from the encroachments of Christian missionaries, who were dispensing medical treatment in a way that suggested they wanted to dispense conversion to Christianity too.

A "Committee for the Construction of a Hospital" was formed in Würzburg, Germany, in response to a plea by three Jerusalem rabbis who had been visiting Kaiser Wilhelm's realm in 1883. The committee undertook to pay a doctor's salary and cover the costs of 20 sickbeds. Dr. Moritz-Moses Wallach, 24, who graduated from Berlin and Würzburg universities just a year before, accepted the challenge and in 1890 he settled in Jerusalem.

Ruth Shirem evokes Dr. Wallach's career in her well-researched book *Ma'achim Bein Hasla'im* ("Angels among Rocks," published by Yaron Golan, 280 pp.) which is written as a sort of novel in which a number of Old City Jerusalemites are also described.

Shrem does not tell why she had chosen this form of narration instead of a straightforward biography, but one assumes she wanted to describe a family she had known, possibly her own.

Dr. Wallach was a remarkable man. A native of Cologne, one of the seven children of an Orthodox textile merchant, he was pedantically Orthodox himself. He first opened a medical practice at his home in the Old City.

He asked for no remuneration from the needy. When he had learned that a woman whose child he had delivered was a prostitute he refused to be paid: the Torah does not permit to receive benefits from a slattern.

In the evenings, after work

dek, he accepted her, but not as a nurse. "A true nurse never abandons her patients," he commented. So Schwester Stybel was made head of the laundry.

Meanwhile, in 1916, Wallach made a short visit to Germany, where he inspected several hospitals to find out about the latest medical advances. And from the Jewish Heine Hospital in Hamburg he engaged Schwester Selma, a diminutive—1.50-meter-high nurse who was to become his staunchest assistant. As the war raged on, Sister Selma traveled via Berlin, Budapest, Istanbul, and then on the Hejaz Railway to Damascus—a whole month.

Some 20 years later, Wallach resolved to train his nurses on the spot. Lessons were to be delivered between eight and 10 p.m. twice a week. Instruction in halachic practice was also in the curriculum. "You'll find no pupils on such terms," Wallach was warned. But he did. Three years later seven young women graduated as nurses with full honors.

But they did not invite Wallach to their post-graduation party. They knew the old man was notably opposed to "Kino und Hopsass" (German slang for frivolous nonsense).

No male visitor was ever permitted to enter the nurses' quarters—not even a pupil's father. The gates closed for the night: girls who wanted to go jumped over the wall. When the Old Man learned about this he issued more stringent rules, but that did not prevent the nurses finding other ways to go out.

They respected old Dr. Wallach nevertheless. In Schwester Selma's little room was displayed a piece of silk embroidered with the words, in German: "I have dreamt life was happiness. I woke up to realize life was duty. I worked, and realized duty was happiness."

Dr. Wallach never married; his mind was elsewhere. And when finally a suitable bride did turn up it was his friend, the ultra-Orthodox Rabbi Haim Sonnenfeld, who advised him not to marry her, point out that he should avoid any appearance of marrying for money.

Elderly pensioners push their wares on the streets of Moscow

EVERY day a small army takes up positions on the sidewalks of Moscow, near the busy subway and railway stations. Shoulder to shoulder they stand, eyes alert, scarves neatly tucked into their heavy winter coats, their crinkled shopping bags at the ready.

They are grandmothers, and they are selling old raincoats, blouses, socks, pencils, hair bands, dried and pickled mushrooms, electric tea kettles and a hundred other things they no longer need, as well as cigarettes, vodka, loaves of bread and dried fish.

They stand silently, expectantly displaying their pathetic wares, while keeping an eye out for harassment by the police and thugs.

In their eyes is a bit of desperation and shame as they begin the fourth winter of post-Soviet Russia's leap to a market economy. They are not homeless people, nor professional street peddlers. Most of them are simply elderly pensioners who are struggling to survive.

To hear them explain why they stand on a cold street corner for hours, holding up a sneaker or a cotton shirt for sale, is to begin to understand the deep humiliation felt by many older Russians as they try to cope with the new world around them.

They lived most of their lives in the protective, smothering embrace of the Soviet Union, and they never dreamed the day would come when they would be forced to take their own clothes out to the street and hawk them just to be able to afford milk and bread.

In the Soviet years they didn't think of themselves as rich or poor. They didn't have much, but neither did anyone else. They drew a salary or a pension, and it was enough to live on.

The idea of buying something cheaply and selling it for a profit was unthinkable, the distasteful business of shady people known as speculators.

The younger generation has adapted to Russia's rough-hewn market economy. They have opened businesses or work several jobs. They like, for the most part, their independence from the state, and they have little trouble grasping the ideas of individual initiative and profit.

But for millions of pensioners, there is no hope of ever making it, and they cling to the



Valentina Grukhnina, 70, sells hair bands and pencils at a Moscow subway stop. She sells goods like these to boost a meager pension. (Washington Post/D.Hoffman)

edge of society. While their children and grandchildren are out working, elderly women pensioners line up in droves at Moscow's subway stations, hoping to sell family goods, or cigarettes, bread and vodka for just a few dollars.

"I feel awkward and shy," said Vera, 77, a former schoolteacher who said she was too embarrassed to give her family name. "In the former times, we lived on a salary, and back then we never would go out on the street to sell things."

Next to her, another woman held up a sailor's striped cotton shirt, offering it for \$3.50. Nearby, several cars were parked at the curb, windows rolled down just a crack—mobile pawnbrokers hunting for bargains.

All around the pensioners are ample signs of a frenzied free-market system. From shop windows and subway posters beckon strange new products from abroad.

But the painful fact is that the pensioners, who thought of themselves as professionals all their lives, who remember the long lines and empty stores of Soviet days, are now impover-

ished and cannot afford to sample the new consumer goods around them.

Many saw their life savings wiped out by runaway inflation and currency devaluations in the early years of reform that followed the collapse of the Soviet Union.

Russia has about 37 million pensioners, according to the Social Security Ministry, and the average state pension is the equivalent of \$55 a month.

The minimum is about \$24 a month. Often the payments are late when the government is strapped for cash.

Vera said her monthly pension is \$43. She lives with her daughter and grandchildren. "The only way I can help them is by selling. My grandson says, 'Please, don't go out there. If someone sees you I shall be ashamed!' But my daughter understands."

"We have been deceived so badly," she replied when asked about President Boris Yeltsin and the free-market reforms of recent years. "He was so good at promising, and he didn't live up to it. We don't know whom to believe in anymore." Washington Post

If you aren't allergic to your pet, your pet may be allergic to you

HEADS N' TAILS
D'VORA BEN SHAUL

PEOPLE are usually surprised to learn that—just as in humans beings—dogs, cats and many other animals are afflicted by allergies.

The manifestations are also similar, taking such forms as tearing, sneezing, wheezing, coughing, skin irritations and digestive upsets.

Some animal allergies are caused by pollen and other natural substances.

However, most pet allergies are homogenic, or human-induced, and they result from chemicals and other products that humans have introduced into the animal's ecosystem.

For instance, a small number of dogs are allergic to some of the additives in commercially produced kibble and therefore simply cannot eat any of the dry dog foods on the market without suffering severe digestive upsets.

In another case, a Labrador retriever was losing hair and scratched itself day and night.

A series of veterinary consultants failed to find a reason after using a number of shots, pills and powders. Finally, they gave the dog a steroid and the symptoms disappeared.

The owner, a nurse, realized that this must be an allergy. She tried several things and then found that the attacks were more severe after she washed the dog's blanket.

She started to wash the cotton

blanket with a good soap and rinse it more thoroughly. The problem simply disappeared.

Many cats are allergic to cigarette smoke, especially those that live in close quarters with a smoker. (This also occurs with dogs, but more rarely.) Some cats actually develop a clinical asthma from close association with a smoker.

Cleaning materials used for food dishes and water pans some-

times produce very strong symptoms.

In addition, certain types of plastic can make a black-nosed dog develop a brown or pink nose since the plastic has an effect on pigment cells.

Surprisingly, one of the most terrible allergies which dogs develop is to the toxins of simple fleas. Whether the dog has one or 1,000 fleas, it will scratch itself continuously, occasionally fatally injuring itself.

This allergy can be controlled only by completely eliminating all the fleas on the dog and a steroid treatment.

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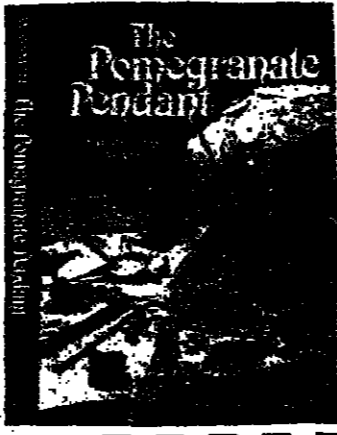
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THE MAN TO BEAT - Dallas Cowboys quarterback Troy Aikman boasts two Super Bowl victories and a 9-1 playoff record. (AP)

Super Bowl secret: It's all in the quarterback

TEMPE, Arizona (AP) - Figuring out the Super Bowl is super simple - just look at the quarterbacks. In the last 11 Super Bowls, all won by the National Football Conference title holder, the winning quarterbacks have thrown 30 touchdown passes and just three interceptions. The losing quarterbacks have just eight TD passes and a whopping 22 interceptions. So with everyone dissecting the Dallas Cowboys and Pittsburgh Steelers, looking for the key to victory in today's Super Bowl, it comes down to this: The team with the hot quarterback wins. Who do you like, Neil O'Donnell, in his first Super Bowl, or Troy Aikman, with two Super Bowl victories and a 9-1 playoff record? "Neil O'Donnell has played well in big games," said Steelers coach Bill Cowher, who has taken his team to the postseason in all four of his years as coach. "He can do it. Now he's in a situation where he can show he can do it." O'Donnell welcomes the

opportunity. "If we throw a lot, I will have to step up and make the plays," he said at Sun Devil Stadium. "In my career as a starter, I've been pretty good in big games." He came up big in his biggest game to date, throwing a 37-yard pass to Ernie Mills in the final two minutes that set up Bam Morris's 1-yard TD run in a 20-16 win over Indianapolis in the AFC championship game. Aikman, of course, is no stranger to the Super Bowl. As the Cowboys go for their third NFL title in four years, Aikman has one Super Bowl Most Valuable Player award and is 41 of 57 for 480 yards, four TDs and one interception. His ability to excel in big games prompted tight end Jay Novacek to say: "As far as I'm concerned, Troy is the best quarterback of all time." Steelers cornerback Carnell Lake knows getting to Aikman is imperative. "To disrupt Troy, you have to get past that offensive line," Lake said, referring to the Dallas

blockers, who average 142 kilograms each. "Because he's so cool, he just sits back there and directs the offense. He demands respect." Especially after getting through a season filled with problems, physical and otherwise. "This season has taken a bigger emotional toll on myself and the team than the other two Super Bowls," Aikman said. "We overcame injuries, not performing at a certain level at times and internal problems I didn't think were necessary." By his own admission, Aikman is in less than tip-top shape for the Super Bowl. "My right calf is not healed up. Both knees are bothering me. There's my elbow and fowler back," said Aikman, set for elbow surgery after today's game. "I've been resting in the week leading up to the game and I won't get healed until it's over." O'Donnell had his problems early in the season, missing the first month with a broken hand in the opener against Detroit. And he's looking forward to

going against Aikman. "I don't feel added pressure," he said. "Troy's a great quarterback, everyone knows that. He's been there before. We're looking at it as a great opportunity for us, our football team." It may seem the Cowboys have a clear advantage at quarterback, but O'Donnell could have a secret weapon in offensive coordinator Ron Erhardt. Erhardt was with the New York Giants when they won Super Bowls in 1987 with Phil Simms and in 1991 with Hostetler. He likens O'Donnell to Simms, who has the Super Bowl record for completion percentage (22 of 25 for 268 yards and three TDs). But can O'Donnell duplicate Simms's Super Bowl? "He had a great day for us this year against Cincinnati," Erhardt said of his quarterback's 377-yard effort in a 49-31 win on November 19. "He's a tough guy. He studies. He works at his game and doesn't have a big ego. He's not a fat-conscious guy." For an AFC quarterback, that's probably a good thing.

Port Vale earns draw with Everton in FA Cup Manchester United first team in last 16 as Tottenham draws, other matches delayed

LONDON (Reuters) - Substitute Ian Bogie snatched a last-gasp equalizer to earn First Division Port Vale a 2-2 FA Cup fourth round draw away to holders Everton yesterday. Manchester United, runners-up last season, are the first team in the last 16 after a 3-0 win at Reading as fellow Premier League Tottenham also drew and atrocious weather put paid to the rest of the 14-match FA Cup program. The matches have been rescheduled for February 6-7. Don Goodman equalized with his 16th goal of the season in the 28th minute, as former giants Wolverhampton held Spurs - who like Manchester United have won the FA Cup a record eight times - 1-1 on a show-covered pitch at White Hart Lane. Big Scottish striker Duncan Ferguson looked to have given Everton victory with a goal in the 88th minute. But Bogie scored two minutes later to send the match to a replay at Port Vale, who eliminated the Spurs in the fourth round in 1988. Overnight snowstorms that left many pitches unplayable and travel hazardous also forced the postponement of all but one league match in England. In that First Division game, Millwall and Portsmouth drew 1-1.

A crowd of 33,168 braved the icy weather to go to Goodison Park, where Everton went in front five minutes before the interval through Nigeria's Daniel Amokachi. Port Vale, like both Reading and Wolves in the bottom half of their first division and looking to the FA Cup to salvage some pride this season, equalized with a header from veteran forward Martin Foyie just before the hour was up. Ferguson's apparent winner came from a blunder by Port Vale goalkeeper Paul Musshellwhite, who fumbled a low cross from Swede Anders Limpar and let the ball drop at the Scot's feet. But former England schoolboy international Bogie's speculative 35-meter drive less than two minutes later took a deflection off an Everton defender to go in over goalkeeper Neville Southall's outstretched hands.

Some 14,000 fans packed Reading's small ground west of London and saw the home side trouble United for half an hour before Welsh wizard Ryan Giggs hit home a rebound after Nicky Hammond had blocked a Lee Sharpe shot. Former England full back Paul Parker struck a shock second goal, his first for three years, in the 56th minute, three minutes after coming on as a substitute. Parker, taking a square pass from Eric Cantona, looked to be shaping up for a cross but his looping ball from out on the right curled in off the diving Hammond's hand at the near post. Cantona rounded off the victory by sidestepping home the third goal from a low cross from the left by Sharpe. Reading will be reported to the Football Association by the referee after a coin thrown from the crowd in the second half struck one of his linesmen close to his left eye. The linesman was able to continue with his job after treatment. Tottenham, who like both Everton and Manchester United survived third round replays, face a daunting second clash with Wolves at their Molineux ground in 10 days time. A sturdy Wolves defense kept Spurs' 33-goal strike force of Teddy Sheringham and Chris Armstrong quiet, with the London side's only goal coming from defender Clive Wilson. Wilson picked up a loose ball in the 13th minute and his drive from the edge of the box went through Wolves goalkeeper Mike Stowell's legs. Wolves hit back 15 minutes later. Veteran defender Gary Mabbutt misjudged a high ball and 30-year-old former England striker Steve Bull, surprisingly playing at White Hart Lane for the first time in his career, chested it into the path of Goodman. Dean Austin robbed the forward but his back pass was short and goalkeeper Ian Walker's attempted clearance at full stretch went in off the charging Goodman. Manchester United will be the only team with a slot to themselves when the fifth round draw is made today. English FA Cup, fourth round: Everton 2, Port Vale 2; Reading 0, Manchester United 3; Tottenham 1, Wolves 1. Division One: Millwall 1, Portsmouth 1. Scottish Cup, third round: Aberdeen 1, Kilmarnock 2; Keith 1, Rangers 16 (played at Aberdeen); Raith 3, Queens Park 6; Ross County 6, Forth 3.

UEFA substitutes fine for ban on Spurs, Wimbledon

GENEVA (Reuters) - Tottenham Hotspur and Wimbledon won their appeal against one-season European bans on Friday, but were ordered instead by UEFA to pay hefty fines for fielding under strength teams in the Interoto Cup. The two clubs were ordered by European soccer's governing body to pay Sfr 150,000 and Sfr 100,000 respectively. The fines, however, will be shared by the Premier League as a whole. "That was agreed at the last meeting of the clubs," said chief executive Rick Parry, who was at the hearing. "The board of appeal decided to amend the suspension and fine both clubs," UEFA spokesman Salvatore Cuccia said. "This was based on new facts and the comprehensive documentation supplied. The board decided that the sanction imposed [by UEFA's control and disciplinary committee] had been too severe, and on that basis to reduce the penalty." Both clubs appealed on the grounds that when asked by the English Football Association to take part in the Interoto Cup during the off-season last summer, they had been authorized to use junior and on-loan players. "We don't see this as some kind of victory," said Tottenham chairman Alan Sugar, who pleaded his club's case personally. "All we did today was get back something 90 other clubs in England have anyway which is the right to qualify for Europe."

Team comparisons

	Pittsburgh Steelers	Dallas Cowboys	
Passing	Att. Comp. Yards Avg. TD	Att. Comp. Yards Avg. TD	
O'Donnell	416 246 2970 7.4 17	Aikman 432 287 3904 7.8 18	
Tomczak	113 65 696 5.8 9	Wilson 57 38 361 6.3 2	
Miller	56 32 387 7.0 2	Garratt 5 4 46 9.2 1	
Stewart	7 5 60 8.6 1	Totals 494 322 3741 7.5 18	
Totals	592 348 4059 6.9 21		
Running	No. Yards Avg. TD	No. Yards Avg. TD	
Pogran	219 1033 4.7 5	E. Smith 377 1773 4.7 25	
Morris	148 559 3.8 9	S. Williams 46 205 4.3 1	
McPhee	39 156 4.0 0	Johnson 25 111 4.4 2	
L. Williams	29 110 3.8 0	K. Williams 10 33 3.3 0	
Stewart	15 66 4.4 1	Wilson 10 12 1.2 0	
O'Donnell	24 45 1.9 0	Sanders 2 9 4.5 0	
Mills	5 28 5.6 0	Smith 1 7 7.0 0	
Tomczak	5 23 4.6 0	Garratt 1 1 -1.0 0	
Hestings	1 14 14.0 0	Totals 465 2201 4.4 29	
Lester	5 9 1.8 0		
Miler	1 2 2.0 0	Receiving	No. Yards Avg. TD
Thigpen	1 1 1.0 0	Inch 111 1603 14.4 10	
C. Johnson	1 10 10.0 0	Novacek 62 705 11.4 5	
Totals	494 1852 3.7 17	Totals 322 3741 11.6 18	
		Punt Returning	No. Yds Avg.
Receiving	No. Yards Avg. TD	K. Williams 7 30 4.3 0	
Thigpen	85 1307 15.4 5	A. Williams 19 189 9.9 2	
Hestings	46 525 11.4 1	Holmes 4 35 8.8	
Mills	39 679 17.4 8	Sanders 3 28 9.3 0	
C. Johnson	38 432 11.4 0	Totals 2 25 12.5 0	
Brutner	28 236 8.4 3		
Pogran	25 235 9.4 1	Interceptions	No. Yards TD
L. Williams	24 127 5.3 1	W. Williams 6 12 2 0	
McPhee	15 38 2.5 0	Mason 6 40 1	
Stewart	11 225 20.5 1	Woodson 2 46 1	
Hoyes	11 113 10.3 0	Sanders 2 34 0	
Avary	11 82 7.5 1	Mylee 1 15 0	
Morris	8 36 4.5 0	Slice 1 2 0	
Sorenson	8 48 6.0 0	Holmes 1 0 0	
Totals	348 4083 11.8 21	Totals 19 281 4	
		Punting	No. Yds Avg.
Punt Returning	No. Yds Avg.	Flary 4 71 0	
Hestings	48 474 9.9	Livly 4 85 0	
Totals	48 474 9.9	A. Mays 2 35 1	
Kickoff Returning	No. Yds Avg.	Bell 2 4 0	
Mills	54 1295 24.2	Lalo 1 32 1	
McPhee	5 25 5.0	Chikam 1 12 0	
Pogran	4 85 21.3	K. Greene 1 0 0	
Brutner	2 19 9.5	Seals 1 0 0	
C. Johnson	2 47 23.5	Totals	22 361 3
Gibson	1 19 19.0		
T. Greene	1 7 7.0	Punting	No. Yds Avg.
Totals	69 1830 22.2	Shank 59 2368 40.1	
Interceptions	No. Yards TD		
W. Williams	7 122 1		
Flary	4 71 0		
Livly	4 85 0		
A. Mays	2 35 1		
Bell	2 4 0		
Lalo	1 32 1		
Chikam	1 12 0		
K. Greene	1 0 0		
Seals	1 0 0		
Totals	22 361 3		
Punting	No. Yds Avg.		
Shank	59 2368 40.1		
Kicking	XP XPA FG FGA Pts		
N. Johnson	36 39 34 41 141		

Super Bowl on television

THE Super Bowl will be broadcast live, with the pre-game show beginning on Sports Channel at 12:45 a.m. tomorrow and on Prime Sports at 1:20 a.m.

Five elected to Hall of Fame

TEMPE, Ariz. (AP) - Coach Joe Gibbs and two of his ex-players, tackle Dan Dierdorf and wide receiver Charlie Joiner, are headed for the Pro Football Hall of Fame, elected yesterday with old-time offensive lineman Lou Creekmur and defensive back Mel Renfro. Among the 10 nominees rejected by the 36-member board of selectors were four members of Pittsburgh's four Super Bowl champions - wide receivers Lynn Swann and John Stallworth, center Mike Webster and defensive end L.C. Greenwood. Also turned away were two finalists, defensive back Mike Haynes and center Dwight Stephenson, as well as quarterback Ken Anderson, defensive ends Carl Eller and Jack Youngblood and guard Tom Mack.

Johnson mulling another comeback with Lakers

INGLEWOOD, California (AP) - Magic Johnson, who has often hinted since retiring for the second time that he might suit up again for the Los Angeles Lakers, has spoken with both the team and the National Basketball Association about coming back. "I've been practicing with the L.A. Lakers, I'm in shape, and if it happens, it happens," he said Friday night. In Arizona for the Super Bowl, Johnson played at a charity basketball game with pro football and major league baseball players. "Let's just say I haven't decided," he said. The New York Post reported Friday that Johnson has "all but guaranteed" the Lakers that he will be in uniform next Friday at the Forum, when Los Angeles meets the Chicago Bulls and Michael Jordan, who himself returned last season after a whirl at baseball. Lakers spokesman John Black, while saying that the report is "nothing that hasn't been going on since he [Johnson] retired," did say talks have been held this time. "The Lakers have had discussions with Earvin, and we have had discussions with the league office on the requirements for him to come back," Black, in Philadelphia for the Lakers' game against the 76ers, said by telephone Friday. "We would love to have him if he decides to come back. That's up to Magic. We're not at that point. It could happen in a day, a week, a month, and it could never happen." Lakers coach Del Harris, who took over the team after Johnson's short coaching stint in 1994, also indicated that this time, Johnson's interest in returning was genuine. "I've been on record as being in favor of it, but it's Magic's call," Harris said before Friday night's game. The Los Angeles Times, citing unidentified sources, reported yesterday that Johnson and the Lakers have reached an agreement in principle on a new contract. Johnson would sign a contract to play for the second half of the season and the playoffs for \$2.5 million, the maximum allowed him under the league's salary-cap rules.

Bulls win 14th straight, 102-80

CHICAGO (AP) - The Chicago Bulls tied a franchise record with their 14th straight victory, using a strong defense, 25 points from Michael Jordan and Dennis Rodman's 16 rebounds to rout the Miami Heat 102-80. The Bulls forced 26 turnovers, held Miami to a nine first-half field goals in building a 48-29 lead and limited Heat center Alonzo Mourning to just 12 points, 13 under his average. Chicago, now 37-3, also won 14 in a row from November 6, 1991, to December 7, 1991, en route to the second of three straight NBA titles. THURSDAY'S RESULTS: Washington 120, Houston 85; Detroit 93, Dallas 92. VANCOUVER 106, TORONTO 101 (OT); L.A. CLIPPERS 94, DENVER 93. FRIDAY'S RESULTS: Atlanta 96, Orlando 84; Indiana 107, Boston 90; New Jersey 115, Charlotte 107; LA Lakers 100, Philadelphia 88; Chicago 102, Miami 80; Phoenix 107, Milwaukee 97; San Antonio 87, Portland 83; Seattle 94, Utah 93; Golden State 124, Sacramento 118.

Panathinaikos face another punishment

ATHENS (Reuters) - Greek club Panathinaikos face another big fine, and playing behind closed doors after fans threw coins, striking an official in Thursday's European Club Championship game 69-67 loss to Pan Orthez. Panathinaikos, on probation after crowd trouble in a game against Real Madrid earlier this season last year, had already seen their worst nightmare come true five minutes into the second half. A hail of coins were thrown at the Orthez bench, hitting the visiting club's president on the head. The French rushed to the dressing rooms and the game was help up for three minutes. FIBA punished the Greeks with a \$35,000 fine in November after Real Madrid game. They now face the fine being doubled and having to play their next three home games - and possibly more - with no fans present.

Tillekeratne saves Sri Lanka from follow-on

ADELAIDE, Australia (Reuters) - Sri Lanka middle order batsman Hashan Tillekeratne saved his side from the follow-on, but the visitors still faced a daunting task to avoid defeat against Australia in the third and final Test yesterday. Tillekeratne survived a barrage of short-pitched deliveries from pace bowlers Glenn McGrath and Paul Reiffel just long enough to snare Sri Lanka to 317 all out in reply to Australia's first innings 502 for nine declared. At close of play on the third day at Adelaide Oval, Australia were 16 without loss in six overs, a lead of 201 runs with all their second innings wickets in hand and two days left to play. Openers Michael Slater and captain Mark Taylor comfortably negotiated the final six overs and will resume today with their side in a powerful position. Australia have already wrapped up the series 2-0 after crushing victories in Perth and Melbourne. Tillekeratne frustrated Australia's pace attack for almost three-and-a-half hours on his way to 65 as Sri Lanka sneaked past the follow-on target of 303 during the final session.

Super Bowl Fact

Pittsburgh has a 4-0 record at Super Bowls - Dallas is 4-3.

GUESS WHICH?

Which team was the first to lose a Super Bowl and then win the title in another season? Oakland Raiders, Baltimore Colts, Kansas City Chiefs, Dallas Cowboys. Answer tomorrow. Answer to Friday's 'Guess What?': The New England Patriots gained only seven yards on 11 attempts against the Chicago Bears in Super Bowl XX in January, 1986.

Super Bowl champions

- 1957 - Green Bay (NFL) 26, Kansas City (AFL) 10
- 1958 - Green Bay (NFL) 33, Oakland (AFL) 14
- 1959 - NY Jets (NFL) 16, Baltimore (NFL) 7
- 1960 - Kansas City (AFL) 23, Minnesota (NFL) 7
- 1961 - Baltimore (AFC) 16, Dallas (AFC) 13
- 1962 - Dallas (AFC) 24, Miami (AFC) 3
- 1963 - Miami (AFC) 14, Washington (NFL) 7
- 1964 - Miami (AFC) 24, Minnesota (NFL) 7
- 1965 - Pittsburgh (AFC) 16, Minnesota (NFL) 6
- 1966 - Pittsburgh (AFC) 21, Dallas (NFL) 10
- 1967 - Oakland (AFC) 32, Minnesota (NFL) 14
- 1968 - Dallas (NFL) 27, Denver (AFC) 10
- 1969 - Pittsburgh (AFC) 25, Dallas (NFL) 31
- 1970 - Pittsburgh (AFC) 31, Los Angeles (NFL) 19
- 1971 - Oakland (AFC) 27, Philadelphia (NFL) 10
- 1972 - San Francisco (NFL) 26, Cincinnati (AFC) 21
- 1973 - Washington (NFL) 27, Miami (AFC) 17
- 1974 - Miami (AFC) 24, Minnesota (NFL) 7
- 1975 - Pittsburgh (AFC) 16, Minnesota (NFL) 6
- 1976 - Pittsburgh (AFC) 21, Dallas (NFL) 10
- 1977 - Oakland (AFC) 32, Minnesota (NFL) 14
- 1978 - Dallas (NFL) 27, Denver (AFC) 10
- 1979 - Pittsburgh (AFC) 25, Dallas (NFL) 31
- 1980 - Pittsburgh (AFC) 31, Los Angeles (NFL) 19
- 1981 - Oakland (AFC) 27, Philadelphia (NFL) 10
- 1982 - San Francisco (NFL) 26, Cincinnati (AFC) 21
- 1983 - Washington (NFL) 27, Miami (AFC) 17
- 1984 - L.A. Raiders (AFC) 28, Washington (NFL) 9
- 1985 - San Francisco (AFC) 38, Miami (AFC) 16
- 1986 - Chicago (NFL) 46, New England (AFC) 10
- 1987 - NY Giants (NFL) 39, Denver (AFC) 20
- 1988 - Washington (NFL) 42, Denver (AFC) 10
- 1989 - San Francisco (NFL) 20, Cincinnati (AFC) 16
- 1990 - San Francisco (NFL) 55, Denver (AFC) 10
- 1991 - NY Giants (NFL) 37, Buffalo (AFC) 24
- 1992 - Dallas (NFL) 52, Buffalo (AFC) 17
- 1993 - Dallas (NFL) 52, Buffalo (AFC) 17
- 1994 - Dallas (NFL) 30, Buffalo (AFC) 19
- 1995 - San Francisco (NFL) 49, San Diego (AFC) 26

Key Representative Rates
Change
US dollar ... NIS 3.1580 +0.67%

INFLATION MARKETS

New York market indexes
Last Change
DJ Industrial 8271.75 +0.52

Other stock market indexes
Last Change
FTSE 100 2784.1 +0.1

Israeli stocks in NY
Last Change
NYSE / AMEX
Amis in Pip 41.75 0

Stocks shoot to record levels

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - Stocks shot to record levels Friday, spurred by a recovery in bonds. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 54.92 points to 5,271.75.

FTSE at session low

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - Leading share prices ended mixed, but on a higher track after bid speculation and a firmer Wall Street helped lift sentiment late in the session.

\$ hits 19-week high

CURRENCY REPORT

NEW YORK (AP) - The dollar hit a 19-week high during Friday's volatile trading as the German mark and surged against other leading currencies amid doubts that Europe can adopt the Euro single currency by 1999.

Gold stocks glitter

WALL STREET WEEK

NEW YORK (AP) - The buzz on gold stocks has turned up a notch or two since the price of the metal has improved. But market professionals claim the stock market offers far better alternatives.

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ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS

Patiah (foreign currency deposit rates) (25.196)
Currency (deposit term)
U.S. dollar (250,000)
3 MONTHS 4.825 4.500 4.500

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

NEW YORK
Alcoa 27.75 +0.75
Amgen 27.25 +0.75
Arista 27.25 +0.75

MUTUAL FUNDS

Flexible

Fund's name
Unit cost
Abn 165.81 164.81

Shares

Abn 106.88 104.99 -0.84 -0.84 81.3

State Bonds

Albany state 57.45 57.25 +1.50 +1.50 2.7

Company Bonds

Allian bonds 245.16 242.07 +10.05 +10.05 20.9

Foreign Currency

Albania 182.74 182.74 +3.85 +3.85 11.9

Mixed

Abn 270.85 265.82 +2.02 +2.02 110.0

LIBOR rates
Last Change
Dollar 3 months 5.5 0

Dollar crossrates (US)
Last Change
Pound spot 1.504 0.0017

Foreign financial data courtesy of Comstock Trading Ltd.
Futures, Options, Stocks, Bonds and Mutual Funds

INFLATION AND METALS
Last Change
Copper (Mar) (LME) 1.080 -0.02

US commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (Mar) (ICE) 1.080 -0.02

London commodities
Last Change
Cocoa (Mar) (LME) 1.080 -0.02

Spot market metals (US)
Last Change
Gold spot 426.85 -0.25

New York metal futures
Last Change
Gold (Mar) 426.85 -0.25

London metal fixes
Last Change
Gold AM fix 426.85 -0.25

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Bipartisan bills to delay direct elections expected

THREE MKs from coalition and opposition parties are expected this week to submit private member's bills calling for the postponement of the direct election of the prime minister until the year 2000.

The MKs - Naomi Chazan (Meretz), Yigal Bibi (National Religious Party) and Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) - want to postpone the implementation of the direct election law, so that it would go into effect only after the upcoming elections.

The Hadash faction has already filed a similar bill. Labor faction chairman Ra'anan Cohen, however, is demanding his party's MKs vote against the bill

LIAT COLLINS

and has imposed party discipline to prevent several Labor MKs from supporting the postponement. Minister Yossi Bellin, and MKs Dalia Itzik and Yael Dayan are among the Laborites known to want the prime minister's direct election postponed.

Internal Security Minister Moshe Shahal and Religious Affairs Minister Shimon Shetreet have in the past also called for the direct election system to be either altered or canceled.

Prime Minister Shimon Peres used to be one of the more vocal opponents of direct election of the premier, but changed his stand after the assassination of

Yitzhak Rabin, who was an enthusiastic supporter of the system. The direct elections are assumed to favor Peres in a race against Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu, but would have acted against him had he had to contend against Rabin.

Last week, Peres prevented a discussion on the subject in the Labor faction meeting.

Netanyahu said last week he would try to persuade his party's MKs to vote against the postponement law but would probably allow them to vote freely on the issue. Likud MKs known to oppose the direct election law are faction chairman Moshe Katsav, Dan Meridor, Uzi Landau and Ze'ev Begin.

Histadrut threatens strike in entire textile industry

MICHAL YUDELMAN

THE Histadrut is threatening to call a strike in all of Polgat's textile plants, and later in the entire textile industry, as part of its struggle against Polgat in the Ouman crisis.

Histadrut Chairman MK Amir Peretz called on the cabinet ministers to "stop standing idly and to intervene in the Ouman affair, in which the employers are renegeing on the severance fee agreement and abusing the workers."

The ministers must understand that this is not another routine workers' dispute, he said. "After the workers agreed to far-reaching compromises in their privileges, someone in Polgat is now formulating a formula for cutting

their severance fees."

About 100 workers of the Polgat-owned Ouman demonstrated outside the headquarters of the Clal Concern - which owns Polgat - last Thursday in protest of Polgat's renegeing on the severance agreement for the Ofakim plant's 180 workers.

The workers and the Histadrut accused Polgat's management of changing the basis for calculating the severance fees of the workers, after shutting down the Ouman textile plant.

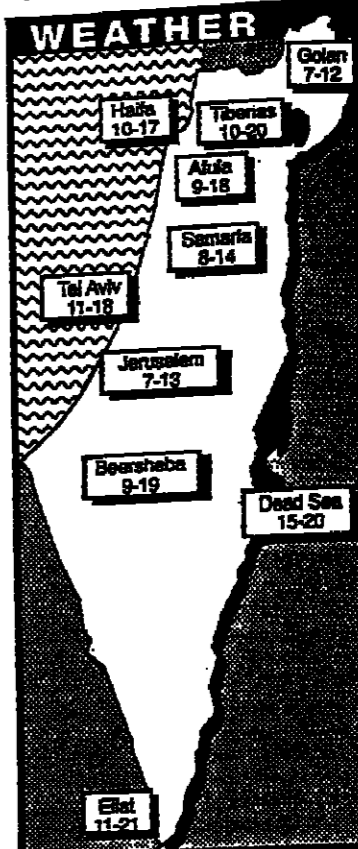
The workers intend to demonstrate again tomorrow at the same place and "this time it will be a stormy demonstration which

will be remembered," according to Ouman union chairman Yitzhak Gozlan.

Ofakim's labor council secretary Yossi Marziano said the workers will continue with their struggle and even step it up, adding that as of today they would boycott Polgat's products, and place volunteers outside Polgat stores throughout the country to stop people from going in.

Polgat's management accused the Histadrut of not negotiating with good faith, by approving of demonstrations as a means of pressure during the talks.

The negotiations over Ouman's workers' severance fees are to continue today.



AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Cloud
Alexandria	60	70	cloudy
Buenos Aires	50	60	clear
Chicago	30	40	clear
Frankfurt	40	50	clear
Havana	70	80	clear
London	40	50	clear
Los Angeles	50	60	clear
Madrid	40	50	clear
Moscow	20	30	clear
New York	30	40	clear
Paris	40	50	clear
Rome	40	50	clear
Sydney	60	70	clear
Tokyo	50	60	clear
Zurich	40	50	clear

Professor petitions against 'English only' rule

EVELYN GORDON

A STATE-SUPPORTED research fund has no right to make grant applicants file their proposals in English, a petition to the High Court of Justice said last week.

The petition was filed by Prof. David Ussishkin, who teaches archaeology at Tel Aviv University.

Ussishkin applied last September for a research grant from the National Science Fund, a foundation set up to give grants for basic research, which gets most of its money from the government. After his Hebrew-language application had gone through a few rounds of corrections, he was suddenly told, in December, that the application could not be considered unless he refiled it in English.

He was also told that from now on, the fund was requiring all applications to be in English.

Ussishkin argued that it is completely unreasonable for a state-supported institution to demand applications in English, when Hebrew is one of the country's official languages, while English is not.

The reason given by the fund's director, Prof. Paul Singer, was that the fund wants all applications reviewed by other experts in the field. Since Israel contains too small a pool of scientists, the applications must be sent abroad - which means they must be in English, he said.

Ussishkin noted that this argument is certainly not true for his field - Israeli archaeology - since the vast majority of experts in this area are here.

'Policy on Ethiopian blood donors is correct'

JUDY SIEGEL

AN expert in medical ethics said that Magen David Adom's policy of not telling Ethiopian immigrant blood donors that their blood would probably be destroyed was correct, "because it would cause the least amount of offense and embarrassment to the immigrants, while protecting public health from a relatively low risk of AIDS-infected transfusions."

Dr. Mordechai Halperin, told *The Jerusalem Post* that MDA's refusal to use most blood donated by former Ethiopians was the only possible decision because the incidence of HIV in that community is 50 times that in the Israeli population at large.

"If one can't detect HIV in blood for up to six months after infection, one must accept only blood with the lowest possible

risk. The same is true of any other high-risk group in Israel, and it has nothing to do with racism or skin color," he said.

MDA's policy, revealed last week by *Ma'ariv* and reported around the world, have caused an uproar not only in Israel, but has aroused tension between blacks and Jews in the US and sparked charges that Israel is "racist."

Halperin maintained that the issue has nothing to do with racism.

"MDA had to find a way to limit the damage to the public and this community," he said.

Now that the matter has made headlines, Halperin suggested that the Ethiopian Jewish leadership decide whether the community should stop donating blood, or whether it would continue to give under the current circumstances.



The "most kosher cake in Jerusalem" was presented Friday to Dr. Mandell Gauchrow, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, by the Sheraton Plaza Hotel and Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert. The OU ended its week-long convention last night, with Prime Minister Shimon Peres addressing the assembly. Pictured left to right: Gauchrow, Sheraton Hotel's Sheldon Rudoff, Olmert, and OU Executive Vice President Rabbi Raphael Butler.

6% drop in immigration

Jerusalem Post Staff

SOME 75,400 new immigrants arrived here in 1995, a drop of 6 percent over the previous year, the Central Bureau of Statistics said.

In its yearly review of immigration, the bureau said 64,000 immigrants arrived from the former Soviet Union - 76% of them from European areas and 24% from Asian areas.

A total of 709,800 immigrants have arrived since the current wave of immigration began in late 1989, the bureau said, of which 610,000 were from the former

Soviet Union.

Last year 4,100 immigrants came from Eastern Europe, compared with 4,500 in 1994, or a drop of 9%. Another 2,200 came from the United States, 1,600 from France, 1,300 from Ethiopia, 900 from Argentina and 700 from the United Kingdom.

Half of those who immigrated here last year were under age 32, 28% were under age 20, and 13% over 65. The bureau noted that some 27% of immigrants in 1995 worked as engineers or health professionals.

Health Ministry reluctant to approve no-calorie synthetic fat

JUDY SIEGEL

THE Health Ministry will not rush to approve the use of olestra, the synthetic, zero-calorie fat that the US Food and Drug Administration approved for use in potato chips and other snacks last week after a decade of testing.

Dr. Brian Coussin, head of the ministry's Food Service, said Friday that his office will ask the FDA for more information and carefully consider the matter before agreeing to the import of snack foods with olestra or their manufacture here.

"FDA approval does not automatically mean we will approve it," the food technologist said. So far, no local company has applied to use the artificial fat.

The synthetic chemical, made of sugar and vegetable oil, consists of large molecules made of six to eight fatty acids that enzymes can break apart and that pass through the intestines without being absorbed.

Unlike other fat substitutes, it doesn't break down at high tem-

peratures, so food can be fried in olestra. Twenty-eight grams of regular potato chips have 10 grams of fat and 150 calories, but the same amount of olestra chips have no fat and just 60 calories.

US sales of olestra are expected to reach \$1 billion soon and could top \$100 billion if approved for use in other foods.

Scientists at Procter and Gamble, the US food giant, have been working on olestra since the late Fifties and patented it in 1971. The company applied to the FDA to approve it as a food additive in 1987, but the supervisory organization delayed because of its unpleasant and perhaps harmful side effects in some people.

Committee to suggest court system reforms

Jerusalem Post Staff

JUSTICE Minister David Libai and Supreme Court President Aharon Barak have appointed a committee to examine the structure of the court system and suggest ways of reforming it, the Justice Ministry said Friday.

The committee has been asked to examine how to improve the distribution of authority and suggest changes to relieve court case overload.

The committee is to be headed by Supreme Court Justice Theodor Orr, and to include Justice Tova Strasberg-Cohen, Justice Ministry Director-General Haim Klugman, Haifa University law school dean Baruch Bracha, and lawyers Amnon Goldenberg and Pinchas Rubinfeld, the statement said.

The committee will hear various testimony and gather material from experts and those involved in the court system.

Let's start making next year better now!

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